TIMES

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 1996

TODAY

THE DATING GAME WHY CUPID HAS A HARD TIME

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THE TIMES FOR ONLY

MONDAY

PLUS: CAR 96, OUR AWARD-WINNING WEEKEND MONEY SECTION AN Britain voices dissent on euro target

Breakthrough on terms for single currency

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER IN DUBLIN

EUROPE took two important strides towards the creation of the single currency yesterday after Germany and France resolved their long-running dispute over the rules of monetary union and millions of Europeans were given. their first glimpse of the euro banknotes that will enter their pockets in 2002,

However John Major and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, united to voice doubts about the ability of even the keenest countries to reach the 1999 target date. The Prime Minister admitted that there would be a huge effort to do so but he was very "dubious" over whether it was

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France ended a dangerous deadlock by agreeing to a compromise brokered by the Brussels commission for dealing with erembers of the new currency zone. The accord came as the European Monetary Institute, the body charged with preparing for the single currency, unveiled Europe's multi-coloured banknotes of

Mr Major, in spite of Britain's current opt-out on monetary union, entered his own reservations. He suggested that the space allowed for the national symbol was not large enough. Herr Kohl, by contrast, was said to have squealed with delight. "Unless the economics are right

people will shy away from January 1, 1999," Mr Major said of the reaffirmed starting date for a

France drops

UN post veto

France dropped its threat to veto the appointment of Kofi Annan as the next

Secretary-General of the United Nations. The

Ghanaian UN official

had already won the backing of Britain and the rest of the Security

Times sales

hit record

Average daily sales of The Times hit a new record of 861,931 last

month, according to the Andit Bureau of Circula-tion. Sales of *The Times*

have now risen by more than 500,000 since au-

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk

WEATHER.

CROSSWORD.....

COURT & SOCIAL20

tumn 1993.

Telegraph dispute

single currency. The Chancellor failure to agree could damage echoed this view: "I, too, am not at all sure that we'll make January !, 1999. Getting all these details right matters far more than some technical timetable."

Mr Major rushed from the summit after his speech to appear at speedily arranged press conference at which he set out the tough line he had taken on some issues being discussed in the intergovernmental conference on the future of Europe. He made plain that he had opposed any extension of majority voting and demanded an exemption for Britain from the 48-hour week.

He also voiced his strongest words of caution against the Franco-German plans to bypass reluctant states. While Britain had backed a more flexible Europe, he said, the wrong sort of flexibility. forcing those who did not wish to integrate into unwanted obliga-Union apart".

While the appearance of the notes was symbolic, the agreement on the so-called stability pact has cleared a big hurdle on the road to monetary union and its starting date, reaffirmed yesterday. Fi-nance ministers had spent much of the night trying to resolve the gap between Bonn's demands for tough automatic penalties for high-spending members of the future currency and the wishes of the rest of Europe to leave room for

a political judgment by ministers. The Irish Finance Minister, Ruairi Quirm, warned his col-

prospects for the introduction of the euro and give heart to those who did not want it to happen. The outstanding issues went to the leaders to resolve and at 4pm a deal was announced. Herr Kohl appeared to have made the bigger concession, accepting the de-mands of the French, backed by Britain and most of the other leaders, for ministers to be involved, in the judgments about levying fines. M Chirac in turn raised the threshold beyond which countries would be automatically

exempted from paying fines. Mr Clarke welcomed the stability pact deal, saying that, irrespec-tive of whether Britain went into a single currency, it was right that it should be run on the basis of proper financial discipline. While Britain backed Germany on the need for strict rules, it supported France in its view that the system must not de appued toc rigidi without any democratic control.

Mr Major told his news conferences that the launch of the single currency would be the most farreaching decision the EU had taken. The United Kingdom ex-pected to meet the Maastricht criteria but would continue to exercise its opt-out because "too much of what we need to know is still a mystery". The Prime Minister denied that

he had been treated at the summit as a "lame duck" because he had lost his parliamentary majority.

Kohl backs down, page 2

Notes fit the bill but islands shortchanged

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN DUBLIN

PLAY it safe, was the order given to winning designer will spend six the designers of the banknotes for the euro, Europe's future single currency, which were released with great fanfare in Dublin yesterday.

The winning entry, a tasteful assemblage of windows, bridges and gateways through the ages, fitted the euro-sensitive bill impeccably. Gender-neutral, with no wildlife or person, the generic edifices could not be traced to any place or race. But first the Greeks and then the

Firms got out their magnifying glasses. "What about our islands?" the cry went up. The background maps on the multi-coloured notes. designed by Robert Kaliena of the Austrian central bank, had taken liberties with geography, inflating the Aegean sea, neglecting islands from Shetland to Greece, and excis-

ing Turkey, an eager EU wannabe. Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), the authority responsible for producing the money, cleared his throat. These are sketches. The months on producing a final design. Part of his duty is to make sure the

geography is OK," he said.

The Greeks, whose economy is nowhere near to qualifying for the single currency, were reminded that they had won the battle to get their language on to the notes, which feature "euro" in Latin and Greek

John Major said he had not studied the designs but added: "I have had time to note that Cyprus. Turkey and the Balearic islands have been left off the map."

Territorial sensitivities aside, the series of seven notes, ranging from five to 500 euros, were met with approval. Each note depicts a bridge in the style of the seven ages of European culture — Classical, Ro-manesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo, the age of iron and glass, and 20th century architecture. A personality will probably feature on many notes since one fifth

Just 11% bother to vote

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LETTERS 19, 31

OBITUARIES21

SIMON JENKINS...... 18

tary election since 1945 gave Labour its second victory in 24 hours.

Richard Corbett held the Mersey-side West seat in the European Parliament with 54 per cent of the vote. He attributed the low poll to the weather and the time of year. Just 11.4 per cent of the constituenal election would give us an overall majority in the House of Commons."

THE lowest turnout in a parliamen- votes took only 90 minutes to count at the Everton Park sports centre. The turnout for the previous Euro-pean election in Merseyside West in June 1994 was 26.2 per cent.

Mr Corbett said: "The crucial thing is that we won and with very convincing figures that in any gener-

> BUSINESS NEWS...... 23-26 **WEEKEND MONEY....27-31**

SHOPPING: WEEKEND 2.3 PROPERTY: WEEKEND. 7-9 TRAVEL: WEEKEND ... 15-20

Prince urges West to foster ties and learn from Islam

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday condemned modern materialism and made a passionate plea for the West to learn from

Calling for a renewed "sense of the sacred", the Prince, a practising Anglican, said there had been a "loss of meaning" in Western society and cited traditional Islamic culture as an example of how spirituality can be integrated with modernity.

Addressing a private meet-ing of 70 academics, businessmen, religious leaders and civil servants at Wilton Park. Sussex, a Foreign Office con-ference centre, he said: "Modem materialism, in my humble opinion, is unbalanced and increasingly dam-aging in its long-term consequences. Science has tried to assume a monopoly, even a tyranny, over our understanding. We are only now beginning to gauge the disastrous results of this outlook."

The outcome was a failure to understand tradition. "Indeed, tradition is positively discriminated against, as if it as some socially able disease."

The "sombre and horrifying" consequences of separating science from ethical, moral and sacred considerations had resulted in episodes such as BSE, he said.

Although the Prince first expressed his sympathies with Islam in a speech at Oxford in 1993, yesterday's address was his strongest statement on the relationship between Islam and the West.

The Prince takes regular advice on Islamic issues from a group of 12 religious leaders

and academics. He told the conference that British schools should have more Muslim teachers, and encouraged the exchange of teachers to help

establish new links. "Everywhere in the world people are seemingly wanting to learn English. But in the West, in turn, we need to be taught by Islamic teachers how to learn once again with our hearts, as well as our

Health, education, architecture and the environment would particularly benefit, he



The Prince yesterday

said. Medicine "remains too often one-dimensional" in its approach. "Hospitals need to be conceived and, above all, designed to reflect wholeness of healing if they are to help the process of recovery in a more complete way." the Prince said.

Dr Farhan Nizami, director of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, said: "It is a plea that must and should be welcomed equally by Muslims as well as by westerners."

Prince's speech, page 18

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Auditors

question

paper's

sales

figures

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

OFFICIAL newpaper in-

dustry auditors last night

delayed publication of

monthly circulation figures

because of a dispute with the Daily and Sunday

Telegraph about how the

papers' sales figures

The Audit Bureau of

Circulations was concerned about the inclusion

in the Telegraph's figures of about 100,000 copies

that it sells through a cut-

The dispute followed a

complaint from News

International owner of

The Times, that the Tele-

graph was in breach of

bureau regulations requir-

ing papers to list copies sold at the full price sepa-

rately from those sold at a

lesser rate and those dis-

tributed free to readers by

third parties such as hotels

The Telegraph did not change its figures yester-

day in time for publication

of the bureau's monthly

bulletin, so the auditors

decided to delay the disclo-

sure of the November resuits for any national The Daily Telegraph's

unaudited full-price sales

for November are estimat-

ed to be just over 900,000.

with total sales of 1.1 mil-

lion. That compares with

802,000 full-price sales for The Times and total daily

Peter Stothard, Editor of

The Times, said: "We are extremely pleased with a November circulation of 861,931, which has yet

again narrowed the gap

between us and the Telegraph to a record low since

the war. Comparing the circulations of the two at full cover price, we estimate that gap to be a mere

100,000 copies. The Telegraph's failure

to comply with the ABC's

price offers should be prop-

erly reported merely

confirms that they are well aware of how close we are

to overtaking their sale."

Establishing accurate full-price sales is of critical

importance for newspaper

publishers because it is on these figures, rather than

the overall figures, that advertising rates are

The discrepancy in the

Telegraph figures came to light earlier this month

when the paper made a.

R.

And Mary Carry

 θ_{i_2}

in H

STATE OF PARTY

trade announcement that it

was selling about 100,000

copies through a special cut-price subscription offer. Its "lesser price"

sales for October, however,

were listed at less than half

that - 49,981 - suggesting

that the cut-price subscrip-

tions were being included

Telegraph's circulation

marks the latest phase in

the circulation battle be-

tween The Daily Telegraph and The Times.

which was sparked in 1993 when The Times cut its

price to 20p. Since then, The Times's circulation has

risen from the 350,000

have hovered at about the one million

level, while Telegraph

sales

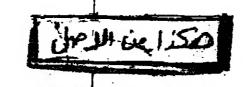
in the full-price sales. The argument about the

sales of 861,931.

and airlines.

price subscription offer.

should be reported.



THETIMES 14 PAGES OF **TIMES SPORT** THEY'RE OFF... ohn Hopkins watches the skd season's first big race in Val d'Isère Starting on Monday: daily snow reports from Europe and America SUNDERLAND **v** CHELSEA Andrew Longmore at Roker Park PLUS THE BEST SPORTS BOOKS MATTHEW

of the Year

arts week

Germany backs down over fines for euro defaulters

From Charles Bremner in dublin

WITH a less-than-bracing handshake, Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac sealed their differences yesterday on the machinery for managing monetary union. The quarrel on the "stability pact" focused ostensibly on mere percentage points, but it had taken 17 hours of almost non-stop negotiation to solve and had threatened to unsettle the drive towards the single

While the leaders resorted to the standard summit claims of "no losers, a triumph for Europe", the consensus around Dublin Castle, including the Germans, was that Herr Kohl had climbed down for the sake of keeping monetary union on the road. The Chancellor has been gracious and he now has to go home and sell this to the public," a senior German official said.

TAKING NOTE

British banknotes can be traced to the early 17th century when gold-smiths handed out notes recording the value of cash and jewellery de-posited with them to carn interest. The pledges were recognised as currency when the Bank of England was

established in 1694.

In 1948, the Bank of England printed 11 fl million notes for internal transactions but had second thoughts and destroyed ten. The one held back and given as a retirement souvenir is лоw worth more than £16,000.

The metal strip in notes was introduced in 1942 after attempts by Germany to destabilise the British economy by flooding neutral coun-tries with forged Bank of England notes. The design of notes is conservative: while re-flecting the national identity, they must also

represent stability and appear valuable. Above all, they must be difficult to copy. The US dollar is the world's most coun-

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delay or funding for legal expenses. So if

you need emergency assistance or even

stood around the world. That's important if

question.

world of difference.

"He will manage, but it won't be easy."

At the core of the quarrel lies one of the the most sensitive aspects of the project for launching monetary union on January I. 1999: the degree to which members of the future euro zone will retain sovereignty over their own budget-

The Maastricht treaty lays down the framework for enforcing discipline on governments that run "excessive deficits". The Germans are especially insistent, fearing that countries with poor rec-ords, such as Italy, Portugal and Spain, could be tempted export their inflation throughout the euro zone without threat of punishment.

With this in mind, Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister, presented an outline for tough automatic sanctions a year ago. Other members accepted the principle that governments would be fined up to 0.5 per cent of their gross domestic product if they ran budget deficits over 3 per cent of GDP. At present levels, this could mean Britain being fined up to £4 billion.

But a majority, led by France, balked at the automatic nature of the sanctions, insisting that latitude be given for political discretion. For many, including Paris and London, automatic fines looked like a recipe for future rule by the European Central Reals

·The breakthrough for France and the others was when Germany agreed effectively to waive the automatic nature of the penalties. Fines will have to be approved by a majority of EU Finance Ministers and countries will be exempt from fines if they can prove they are victims of exceptional recession.

M Chirac said that he had achieved his goal and that fines would be assessed "case by case". Decisions on wheth-er to fine will be taken by majority voting in the Council of Finance Ministers, meaning that no country has a veto.

Yves Thibault de Silguy, the Commissioner for Monetary Affairs, said, with revealing honesty: "The member states recognised that the euro is more important than domestic sensitivities."



Note of divergence on new monopoly money

By Adrian Lee

JOHN HEATH took one look at the new currency and raised his eyes heavenwards. "It's Monopoly money, innit? They're not serious, are they? We've had the old notes long enough, so let's keep them. How are the old people going to get used to this lot? Look at the colours. I am against it, without a doubt. It's tragic that it's

Mr Heath, 44, a Ministry of Agriculture messenger from Wapping, east London, said: "I suppose if they bring it in I will have to use it but I don't see any need. I've been to Europe on holiday and it's no problem to go down the travel agents and change some money. These are a bit comic book, aren't they."

Geertje Haayer, 37, from Assen, The Netherlands, was more positive. "I like the notes showing a bridge between Europe and other parts of the world. I think there are still many problems to be solved but a single currency will help us all to have better plans.

But, it is also important

that the countries keep their differences. The notes are very different to the Dutch currency but I like them. It is good that they show all the European countries."

Her husband, Bert, also 37. who was wearing a Union Jack bobble hat said: "I like them. The colours are good. I think our children, who will grown up with them, will be

pleased too."

David Lambert, 51, an insurance broker from Amersham, Buckinghamshire, said: "I am a pro-Europeau, so I am all for the euro, but these designs lack the authority of pounds sterling. They have a continental feel and look to them, but I would still be happy to use them."

Sarah King, 64, of Grays, Essex, liked the notes. The green 100 note stands out very well. They have chosen



The Haayers, left: liked design; Hanninen: boring



them easy to tell apart. That is a problem with £20 and £10 notes. As long as it isn't just an excuse to put prices up I would be happy to use them." Ari Hanninen, 34, a project

manager from Hyvinkää. Finland, said: They are nothing special. The designs are boring. They should also be the same size so that you can fit them easily into your pocket.

"The yellow 200 note does not even look like real money. It is too bright, not serious enough. And I don't like the maps — Britain is too thin, they have got Finland wrong, too. But, if they make it easier to travel, it is a good

Viv Hollister, 44, who runs a jellied eel stall in Chapel Street Market. Islington north London, said: "I feel cross and betrayed. When I serve elderly people who fought in the trenches, it's as if they are taking another one in the side."

However, Sir Terence Conran, the restaurateur and designer, said: "They are a fine example of graphic design. The notes would be marvellous for use by some 1930s electricity company."

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New notes fit the bill

Continued from page I of one side has been reserved for a national motif, which in Britain's case would probably be the monarch.

Strictly speaking the euro, to be launched on January I, 1999 is worthless until it goes into circulation in 2002, but for present purposes the Bank of England values it at one ecu, or 75 pence.

Mr Lamfalussy said the E.M.I. the Frankfurt-based body which will turn into the European Central Bank on the euro's birthday, had been reassured to find that the winning design, chosen from among 44 entrants from all the member states, scored the

highest marks both with the in the next century, indeed the jury of experts and with the public. Four British firms had contributed to the competition, including the Bank of England and De la Rue.

Mr Lamfalussy wielded the full stock of Euro-metaphors to explain the choice of motifs. Windows and gateways symbolise the spirit of openness and co-operation in the European Union, he said. Bridges meant commun-

ication. The design, with its mixture of history, technology and art, epitomised the dawn of the new common Europe and its common cultural heritage and the vision of a common future designed,

The EMI has the daunting job of supervising production, which will start in 1998. There are an estimated 12.7 billion banknotes in circulation among the 15 member states, with a life expectancy of two years. The cost of taking in the billions of marks, francs and

new millennium."

other notes and replacing them with euros is estimated in the hundreds of millions of pounds, a charge that will dent the forecast benefits of the new currency in its first year. Europe must wait another year for a glimpse of euro coins, which have yet to be

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Insurance

Killer is jailed for assaults on girls

BY STEWART TENDLER

A MURDERER who escaped the hangman with two hours to spare 40 years ago was jailed for six years yesterday for indecently assaulting two girls.
Albert Goozee, 73, was

sentenced to death in 1956 for killing Norma Leakey, 14, in the New Forest. The judge ordered that the case relating to the murder of her mother, Lydia, should remain on file. Goozee was judged to be suffering from chizophrenia and moved from his death cell to

Yesterday Goozee, who has been in and out of prison during the past 20 years after being released on licence, was told he might spend the rest of his days behind bars after assaulting the girls, aged 12 and 13. During the trial at Maidstone Crown Court the girls described how after plying them with drink and cigarettes.

Yesterday Judge Gower told Goozee the jury had cleared him of rape charges but one of the two cases had been "one of the most serious cases of indecent assault that I have ever had to deal with". Goozee's "horrifying" record should be considered if it was felt he should be released, he said.

Goozee served 15 years of his murder conviction before being released in 1971. Two years later he was back in court for theft and going equipped for theft. Goozee was jailed for 18 months for wounding in November 1982 and recalled to his life sentence. Five months later he was jailed for 18 months for wounding a neighbour. He was released on licence in

Jury finds pupil who wielded knife not guilty of murder or manslaughter

Public schoolboy cleared of stabbing teenager to death

A PUBLIC schoolboy who stabbed a pupil from the local was cleared of murder yesterday. The boy, who is 16 tomorrow but cannot be named for legal reasons, was also found not guilty of the manslaughter of lan Gamble,

As the verdicts were announced at Teesside Crown was seven inches taller than his victim, dropped his head and wept. In the public gal-lery, his mother, 50, a divorced hairdresser, burst into tears.

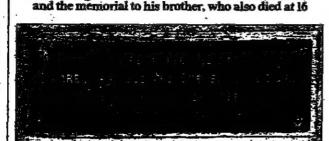
Later she said: "There is a sense of tremendous relief for my son and all of the family but it is tinged with regret and great sadness for the mother of the victim, Ian Gamble, and his family. We are thinking of them at the moment." Sheila Gamble, the victim's mother, left court without commenting. The death of lan. 16, was her second loss of a son in tragic circumstances. He died just a short way from a memorial to his brother Darren, also 16, accidentally poisoned by exhaust fumes as he and a friend sat in a car in a

garage. Releasing the accused teenager, who was a pupil at Barnard Castle School in Co Durham, Mr Justice Moses told him: "Nobody listening to this can have any doubt about the terrible results of carrying knives and I know you will reflect on that for the rest of

The court had heard how



The Bridge where Ian Gamble was killed, above,



the pupil at the £8,300-a-year school had plunged the 4in blade into Gamble during a fight. The jury accepted his story that he produced the weapon to frighten off Gamble, who had been punching

The accused teenager, from Bishop Auckland, Co Dur-ham, had drunk bitter and cider before going to a disco at the public school on February 24 this year. After leaving, he and friend were chased by Gamble and other pupils of Teesdale Comprehensive.

The prosecution had claimed that the youth had waved the weapon- at his pursuers, shouting Do you want some of this?, but the accused said he had taken the knife out only to "look big in

front of my friends". He said: "I just wanted to show them the knife to get them to back off so I could run away. Then I saw Gamble out of the corner of my eye holding his chest, I realised when I was running away the knife had made contact with Ian

The teenager, who won a scholarship to the school and hopes to become a pilot, said it was all an accident, but he made no effort to call the police or emergency services. Instead he washed the knife, put it on top of a cupboard and

The day after lan's killing Mrs Gamble, a care assistant, aid: "I can't believe it has happened again. Jan was such a lovely lad. Very outgoing. He lived life to the full. There wasn't an ounce of badness in his body. He had his whole life ahead of him. He was talented and liked by everyone. It is just such a waste." Ian's step-



Ian Gamble: "He was liked by everyone. It is just such a waste," said his mother

father, John Pringle, 39, a lorry driver, said: "You would have to go a long way to find anyone who would say anything bad about Ian.

"He was a popular lad, not only with his school pals but with older lads as well. He was never in trouble with the

Teenagers have always had the odd scuffle, but in the past it would be a couple of nunches. Nowadays it seems some people just automatically reach for a knife. You never expect something like this to happen to your family. To happen twice is just

Paul Harrison, head of Teesdale Comprehensive said: "Since taking up my post at the beginning of this term I have come across nothing to suggest an unhealthy rivalry exists between this school and Barnard Castle School. There is no history of bad blood between pupils from the two wrong and irresponsible for anyone to try to create tension where, to the best of my

Frank McNamara, headmaster of Barnard Castle School, was not available for comment. Detective Chief Inspector Tom Ryan, who investigated the death, said: "There are no winners in tragic cases such as this and both families have endured no end of

Baby is saved by judge's ruling

er had an extreme phobia of needles. Mr Justice Kirkwood ordered that the 20-year-old woman's refusal to have a needle inserted for a hospital

drip should be over-ridden.

The drip enabled her to have a Caesarean section. As a result of judge's decision at an emergency evening sitting of the High Court Family Divi-sion. mother and baby are thriving, lawyers said.

The case came to light yesterday in a judgment by Mr Justice Kirkwood. The judge said that the emergency application had been made to him at just after 6pm on December 5 and that by 6.24pm he had made the order that allowed the hospital authorities to insert the needle for the drip, which was necessary for the operation.

The mother, from southern England, who was identified only as "L", has since thanked the hospital for obtaining consent to set up the drip.

The judge said that she had been in labour for some hours hearing, but the labour had been obstructed. Specialists decided she needed a Caesarean operation, without which the baby would die and the mother's health and well-

being would be at risk. The woman rold the doctors, however, that she had an "extreme phobia about nee-dies" and was unable to consent to the procedure that would involve putting a needle

Mr Justice Kirkwood said: he took the view that the mother's 'affliction with a severe phobia about needles' had put her wellbeing and that of her unborn child at risk. "I held that her extreme needle phobia amounted to an involuntary compulsion that disabled her from weighing treatment information in the balance to make a choice."

BY LIN JENKINS

A SERIAL sex attacker who tortured women to satisfy his drug-induced lust was jailed for life yesterday. James Oliver, 25, conducted a war on women" while high on crack cocaine, the Old Bailey

Wendy Joseph, for the prosecution, said that his victims were threatened with death if they did not meet his demands. His first victim, a journalist in her 50s, had undergone a personality change and been left suicidal after the attack.

Oliver got in through an open balcony window while her husband and daughter were away and her son was asleep in another room. He was wearing a stocking mask and said that he had a friend holding a gun to the head of the person in the next room. He then raped her.

Miss Joseph said: "She was terrified for her life. Since then she has undergone a personality change and her entire life has been affected."

Oliver's last victim, a 36year-old American lawyer. was attacked while staying with a friend. He woke her

Life sentence for | Secret agenda on 'war on women' council business

By A STAFF REPORTER

his wife, a Liberal Democrat councillor, was simply dedicated when she went away on council business at weekends. He thought she and Arthur Latham, the 68year-old leader of Havering council and a former Labour

registered there. He told

the Brecon Beacons in

His fears were confirmed

when he discovered love notes

scrawled on the back of Mr

Latham's business cards, he

"I had pleaded with him on

Wales for a weekend."

ployed, was a different man MP, were engaged on "factwhen not on drugs and could not recall carrying out the But Mr Hurlstone, who attacks, his lawyer, David Christie, said. "He feels real stood for Parliament as a Liberal Democrat at the last three general elections, began remorse for the offences and disbelieves he could do such to suspect his 46-year-old wife Caroline was having an affair terrible things. He presents as a very mild-mannered young when he called the hotel she Oliver admitted one charge was supposed to be staying at and found that she was not

of rape and four of indecent assault between 1991 and 1995. He also stole from the homes of his victims. The judge said his priority was the protection of other woman and that Oliver, from Hornsey, north London, must serve at least II years before being considered for parole.

and threatened to kill ber

while holding a long metal instrument in his hand. The

woman said in a statement: The shock and rage I felt wondering whether this ran-dom attack might take my life

Oliver, who was unem-

are beyond description."

"Although these terrible crimes were committed over a breaks between offences, they Judge Gordon said.

TERRY Huristone thought fact-finding missions all over the country otherwise I would tell his wife. He just sort of sneered at me and said that was for him and her."

The following day Mr Hurlstone visited Mr Latham's home in Romford to confront Mrs Latham with details of the affair but, finding her out, began fighting with the councillor, the jury

Mr Huristone said Mr Latham went to hit him but he had blocked the blow and had punched him in the mouth. He said Mr Latham had then begun to tremble so much that "his false teeth shook out of his mouth" and he had protested that the affair. He then clutched his chest and Snaresbrook Crown Court yesterday: "I suspect they went claimed he was having a heart attack. In a notebook Mr Latham had urged Mrs Hurlstone not to leave her husband. He wrote: "I do not want to destroy my marriage or my family and move into a said. Mr Huristone, 57, said: situation where neither of us would be happy."

begging him to leave her Essex, denies theft and common assault on Mr Latham. alone. I said the meetings had to stop, they must stop these



Princess's lawyer offers to slum it for sake of everyday countryfolk

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE leading lawyer Anthony

Julius has joined the campaign to save Ambridge's Grundy family from eviction. Mr Julius, an addict of The Archers who also finds time Princess of Wales, yesterday volunteered to represent the hapless fictional tenants,

should their case reach the Lands Tribunal. Mr Julius, who usually charges up to 1250 an hour for his services, said he would waive his fee. "I'm a great Archers fan and I wouldn't want anything to happen to the Grundys,

His offer follows a potentially alarming development in BBC Radio 4's everyday story of countryfolk. Eddie Grundy, beloved among Archers fans for his wide-boy antics and Country and Western singing, is threatened with eviction from his 110acre farm. The consequences for Eddie's family - his



Eddie Grundy, left, played by Trevor Harrison, could be saved from eviction by Anthony Julius

long-suffering wife Clarrie and their two sons William and Edward - are grave. As Ambridge has no council housing, they may be forced

The Grundys troubles have been caused by the dashing but ruthless landowner Simon Pemberton.



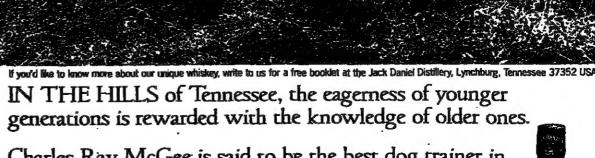
them from his land becau they are not making enough money from their farm. The BBC's studios at Pebble Mill in Birmingham have been inundated with letters

of support for the Grundys in the past week, not to mention Gavin Strang, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, have encressing their concern at the plight of the family. Vanessa Whitburn, editor The Archers, said yester ay that the Grundys would

be unable to accept Mr Julius's help. We are very grateful to him, but in real life a family like the Grundys would not be able to afford a top-flight lawyer like that and we have to be realistic," she

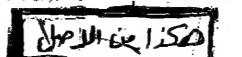
Mr Julius had hoped join a long line of real public figures to have played themselves in the series. These e Princess Margaret, the Duke of Westmir Terry Wogan, and Anneka Rice and Britt Ekland.

Last night's episode did, however, provide some hope for the Grundys when their representative from the Tenant Farmers' Association



Charles Ray McGee is said to be the best dog trainer in Moore County (that's him with his pride, Jake). So he's just the man young Bob Hobbs wants to talk to about getting his own pup squared away. The best traditions here, from champion dogs to prize-winning whiskey, have always been handed down. After a sip of Jack Daniel's, you'll be glad they always will be.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



THE SUNDAY TIMES

The killer who said sorry



Scan O'Callaghan, the disaffected IRA gunman who betrayed his comrades out of revulsion, writes for the first time about his childhood in the Irish republican heartland,

the murders he committed, the crisis of conscience that made him an informer and the danger he faces in deciding to speak out against terrorism

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Wife works for Labour HQ while on compassionate leave to care for sick husband

Civil servant at centre of Blair radio poll riddle

ment with the little-known

Audience Participation Unit,

It emerged yesterday that

Peter Mandelson, the aide to

Mr Blair, is responsible for the

unit, which is based within his

campaign department. Mr Mandelson, the MP for Hart-

lepool, denied that Ms Hurry

had written the letter. He said

that one of her colleagues,

another more junior member-

of staff", was responsible. His

statement caused surprise

among his colleagues.
Other sources named Phil

Royal, the candidates' liaison

officer, as the author. Nobody

at Labour Party headquarters

was able to explain why the

name of Ms Hurry and not of

Mr Royal was on top of the

memo. Mr Royal, far from

being junior to Ms Hurry, is a

full-time paid official who

joined Mr Mandelson's cam-

which issued the letter.

THE Labour Party worker at the centre of an attempt to rig the Radio 4 Today Personality of the Year contest is a senior civil servant who was given unpaid leave of absence-to care for her sick husband.

In her application for leave.Jules Hurry, a £35,000a-year civil servant, did not tell the Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries and Food that she was going to work for the Labour Party three days a week. The leave was timed from November to May, by which time the general elec-tion has to be called.

Senior officials at the ministry were astonished to learn that the name of Ms Hurry, a civil servant of 30 years standing, headed the leaked Labour Party letter at the centre of the organised attempt to deliver victory for Mr Blair in the competition. The BBC disqualified Mr Blair and suspended the voting. Richard Packer, the Perma-

nent Secretary at the ministry,

learnt of her involvement with the party when he read The Times yesterday. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. was in contact with Mr Packer-

The Cabinet Office and the ministry tried, without success, to contact Ms Hurry at her north London home. A ministry spokesman said: "I can confirm there is a Cabinet Office inquiry under way.". The controversy comes days

after Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, accused civil servants of acting as fifth columnists and leaking information to the Labour Party. "It is a very sensitive issue," said a Cabinet Office source. "Civil servants who work for political parties should be involved only in light clerical duties, not highprofile campaigning."

The confirmation of the

inquiry heaped further pres-

sure on the party. Mr Blair paign department five months He was the paid party agent

the day to deny any involve- in the two Lewisham marginal seats that Labour captured at the last election from two government ministers. "Everyone knows who Phil is: he is highly regarded," a party worker said last night.

Labour officials were eve sive when asked about the Audience Participation Unit, the existence of which came to public knowledge only when the memorandum about the competition was leaked.

The unit, made up of four part-time staff, is based at the media centre at Millbank Tower. It was set up earlier this year to ensure that party members made their voices heard, without revealing their Labour loyalties, on television and radio phone ins and audience participation pro-Call Nick Ross on Radio 4

and the Radio 5 morning magazine programme are its principal targets, along with local radio. The unit urges



Peter Mandelson says the letter was written by a junior colleague to Ms Hurry

Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, wrote to Mr Blair last night seeking answers about the role of the unit. "I heard you say on television that you knew nothing about this matter. People know that

nothing happens in the Labour Party without your agreement," he said. "They will only believe it if you take steps to disband the unit. Do you, or do you not, take the responsibility for the actions of your own officials?" Labour, which has dis-

owned the letter, has begun an internal inquiry. A spokes-woman, asked if Mr Royal would be disciplined and whether the unit would be closed, replied: "It's an internal matter and nothing to do

worked in the development of rural policy. A trade union activist, she was given a twoyear secondment in 1988 to work for the Civil and Public Services Association. "She has a lot of explaining to do," said a Whitehall official.

Her husband, Alan Griffiths, is receiving treatment from a London hospital and walks with the aid of a stick. He works occasionally for the Liberal Democrats. The couple live in a £300,000 house in Islington, ten minutes from Mr Blair's home.

Question time for a fair audience

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BROADCASTING companies go to great lengths to ensure that political parties and interest groups are unable to rig audience participation programmes and phone-ins.

Audiences for shows such as BBCI's Opestion Time and IIV's Jonathan Dimbleby, where members of the public get the chance to put questions directly to politicians and oth-

viewpoints is represented. Those wanting to be one of

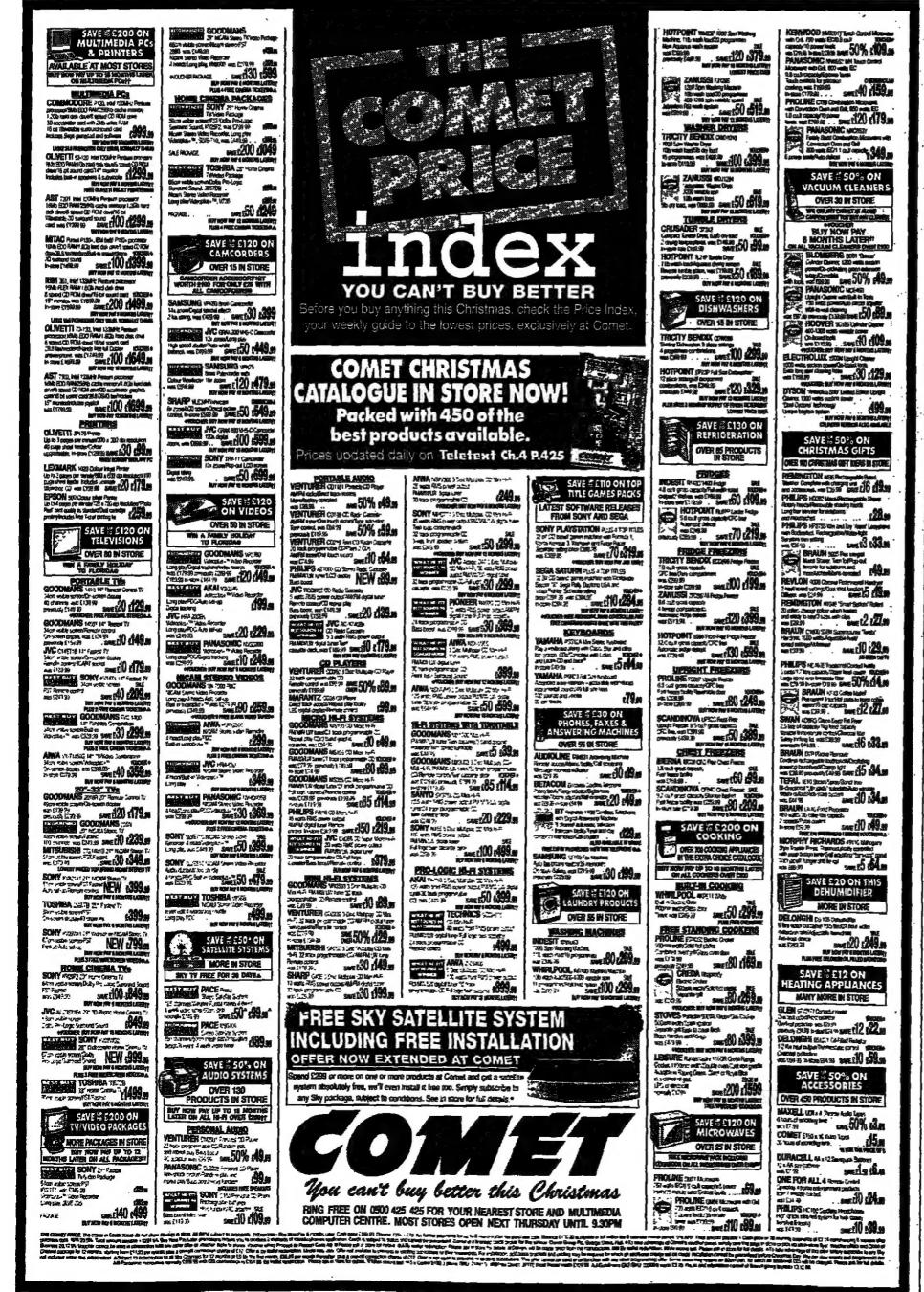
their voting intentions. Christopher Capron, the series editor of Question Time. said that once the pro-gramme's researchers have selected several hundred potential audience members, their completed application forms are fed through a computer. This then makes a final

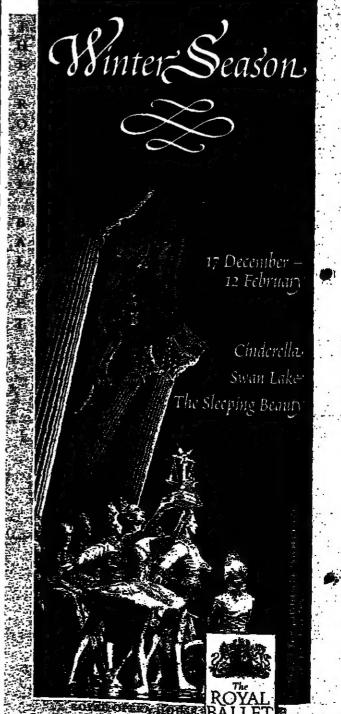
each main political viewpoint and an accurate demographic reflection of the electorate.

"I can put my hand on my heart and say that we are unriggable on any meaningful scale," Mr Capron said. "You may get people lying about their voting intentions, but they would then have to get selected by other criteria." Mr Capron's production company ensure that a wide range of with the BBC to ensure that its audiences were balanced.

Mr Capron said, however. the 250 in the Question Time that if the programme, which audience have to fill in a form is recorded in a different giving their age, gender and location every week, is short of occupation and indicating audience members representing a particular viewpoint it may ring the local constituency party office to offer them tickets. This happens very rarely...

Edward Morgan, editor of Jonathan Dimbleby, ITV's Sunday lunchtime programme, said: "Nothing is fool-proof, but the weird thing selection, ensuring that there is how little the political paris a balance of supporters for ties do try to rig it."





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Cannabis 'star' upheld Raleigh Raleigh family tradition

AN OXFORD graduate claiming descent from Sir Walter Raleigh, the Elizabethan adventurer who introduced to-bacco to Britain, boasted to a judge yesterday that he grew the finest cannabis in the country, which produced a vastly superior smoke.

It was a boast backed by Home Office scientists who found his plants had the highest narcotic content they had recorded.

Robin Scott used specialised heating, watering and lighting systems to get the best from his plants. He put in years of research, reading more than 50 books on the subject, smoking thousands of "joints" andtalking to hundreds of people involved with the drug.

Police found a complete record of his production trials in a book entitled "Captain's Log. Star Date January, 1995. Planet Earth." Every plant he had grown was listed, with details of its breeding, growth rate, yield and soil type.

rate, yield and soil type.
Scott. 48, denied two charges of producing cannabis, one of supplying the drug, one of possession and another of intent to supply. He told Truro Crown Court in Cornwall: "I believe it is God's will that we should grow this miraculous healing plant. We believe we are deeply privi-



Raleigh: Scott claimed to be a descendant

leged to be involved. We feel a moral obligation to make marijuana available to as many people as possible."

He added: "I have nothing to say in mitigation because I am not a guilty man. Sentence and be damned." He was jailed for four years. Compared with his alleged ancestor, whose tobacco was grown in Virginia, it was a moderate sentence. Sir Walter was executed for treason in 1618.

When police raided Scott's

cottage on Common Moor, near Liskeard, in December last year, they found 845 plants. In interviews Scott conceded that he charged up to £100 an ounce and had been collecting up to £3,000 a week. He accepted that he had produced 474 ounces of cannabis with a street value of between £35,000 and £47,000.

bis with a street value of between £35,000 and £47,000. He had told drug squad detectives: "You are talking to a star. I grow the best marijuana in the country."

The former accountant said

The former accountant said the drug had made his love life with his wife Adrienne, 47, blossom and that they had even fed it to their 14-year-old labrador and noticed an improvement in his health and appetite within a week.

"My cannabis sativa plant is a tail, graceful plant and in the opinion of most connoisseurs a vastly superior smoke. You could say it is the champague of cannabis, as opposed to the Newcastle brand.

"My wife and I probably know more about cannabis than anyone else in the country, having read about 50 books, smoked thousands of joints and talked to hundreds of people on both the legal and illegal sides of the cannabis business."

Scott, educated at Rugby School and Corpus Christi, said he had first used cannabis while an "aristocratic hip-



Robin Scott, who boasted in court about his home-grown cannabis, and his wife Adrienne were both jailed

py" in San Francisco. He later founded the Medical Marijuana Foundation in an attempt to get the drug legalised.

He and his wife married in 1979 and have two children, Sally, 19, and David, 15. Scott joined the Church of Scientology in 1973 and became a minister, but left in 1981 and claims he was made bankrupt after the church brought a civil case against him, settled out of court.

Michael Brabin, for the

prosecution, said that of the money Scott made not a penny went into research. "Scott had great ambitions but not to serve his fellow men. He recorded his new year resolution for 1993 as to make a

drug."
Scott told the judge, Recorder David Ticehurst: "I have nothing to say in mitigation because I am not a guilty man." The judge sentenced

Scott's wife, who denied simi-

million out of growing the

lar charges, to 15 months in prison.

The judge said: "I accept that it is your view that the law is wrong. But those who live in society must accept its laws. You were the author of a sophisticated and calculated plan to produce the best quality cannabis."

Scott, who defended himself, asked the judge to do a "truly courageous, truly honourable" act and order a retrial. The judge replied that he did not have that power.
Detectives who worked on
the case described Scott as one
of the most arrogant men they
had ever come across.

Detective Inspector Barry Sobey said: "This has been a substantial success for us in the war against drugs. This was a very professional operation which produced extremely high quality cannabis. We have smashed a major producer in the home grown drugs industry."

Women stripped house of contents

By Paul WILKINSON

NEIGHBOURS on a notorious council estate thought it was open house when one tenant moved out temporarily from her three-bedroom semi. Within days it had been stripped of everything that could be carried away.

Out went a two-piece suite, tables and chairs, the television and other electrical equipment. Even the cooker and a karaoke machine were disconnected and removed. When the occupant returned to collect her belongings she found the house bare.

So far police have arrested

and charged 19 adults and juveniles, mostly women. All are from the Kendray estate in Barnsley, known locally as the Bronx. Two of those arrested appeared before Barnsley magistrates on Wednesday Colleen Oliver, 24, and Lisa Hampshire, 23, were the first to be dealt with. Oliver admitted handling the stolen suite and a karaoke machine worth £820. Hampshire admitted handling a stolen fridge and telephone. Stuart Newton, for the prosecution, said the house had become empty after the tenant had a row with a neighbour and walked out, Council workmen sealed the doors and boarded up the windows, but the house was still broken into repeated ly. When it was checked four days later all the contents had

been stolen.

Jack Danaher, for both defendants, said: "After the house was boarded up the locals just started going in and out. It was open house."

McLibel judgment may take a while, says the prisoner of Court 35

By Bull From

BRITAIN'S iongest libel trial, in which two penniless environmentalists claimed that the burger chain McDonald's was poisoning customers, exploiting Third World countries and employing cheap abour, finally ended yesterday.

In the summer of 1994, Mr Justice Bell began presiding in the High Court over what appeared to be a straightforward libel case, expected to last a few months. Yesterday the case was handed over to him to in Court 35. He had listened to more than a hundred witnesses and studied 40,000 documents and 20,000 pages of transcripts generated during the 313 days of the hearing in which Dave Morris and Helen Steel denied libelling

McDonald's.
In Court 35 yesterday, before the judge rose, he said, to laughter: "I will say now that I propose to reserve my judgment. It will take me some time to write it. I don't mean to be difficult when I say I.

because I don't know." It would take longer than the few weeks mentioned in newspaper reports, he said.

Mr Morris and Ms Steel, who

represented themselves in the socalled McLibel Trial, had prepared evidence about the destruction of the rainforests and exploitation of Third World farmers, and had appealed for information on the company's ethics and practices. The pair slumped back on the court benches yesterday and smiled ruefully as the judge left the courtroom. They denied that they would
miss their daily court appearance.
McDonald's had been represented by a legal firm led by Richard
Rampton, QC, whose fees alone
amounted to £2,000 a day. The company's legal fund is £10 million.

Even if the judge finds against Ms Steel, 32, and Mr Morris, 42, it is unlikely to make much difference to the amateur lawyers. The fast-food chain has little chance of recovering legal costs amounting to millions of pounds because their

opponents are not in paid employment. McDonald's has indicated it will not be seeking damages, only to clarify the facts and win an injunction barring the pair from repeating their allegations.

That is exactly how the trial began in 1994, when Mr Rampton asked Mr Justice Bell to end the long-running campaign by the environmentalists. A leaflet written by London Greenpeace, which has nothing to do with Greenpeace International, contained a "wholesale attack on almost every aspect of

McDonald's business", he told the judge. It was completely false in every respect, but the pair had published material repeating the allegations on the day before the first morning of the trial, he said.

Now the trial is over, the campaign against McDonald's has moved to the Internet. Supporters of Mr Morris and Ms Steel have set up a web site called McSpotlight. which contains millions of words from the trial and clips of film. It was accessed 174,000 times in the

CORRECTION

Because of an editing error the final sentence of a letter from Mrs Gillian Bardinet (December 12) was incorrect. It should have read: "It may no longer be unrealistic to see the advent of a European currency as a natural corollary of European stability and prosperity, based on the best elements of the British example."



Record for Raphael marks revival of Old Masters market

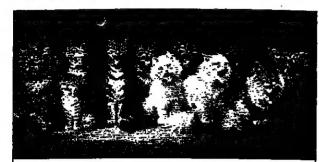
BY JOHN SHAW

A STUDY by Raphael set a the head and hand of an £5.2 million record for a drawing yesterday at the end of a week of Old Master auctions in London. The black chalk work was an auxiliary cartoon for Transfiguration. Raphael's last great masterpiece, which hangs in the Vatican.

The drawing, which was appearing at Christie's for the second time in 12 years, shows

John the Evangelist in Transfiguration. It was described by the late Sir John Pope-Hennessy, the art historian and Renaissance expert as one of the finest drawings Raphael made".

It was knocked down by Noel Annesley, deputy chair-man of Christie's Internation-



bams is today holding its first antiques roadshow for cat memorabilia, at the National Cat Show at Olympia, west London. There is currently a boom in pictures and artefacts associated with cats, which have overtaken dogs in popularity as pets. Bonhams hopes to unearth gems for a big sale next

month and is looking for the finest paintings, prints. ceramics, bronzes and jewellery. Louis Wain's The Cats Chorus, above, is to be sold for an estimated £10,000-£15,000, and Frank Paton's Who is the Fairest of Them All, which features a kitten staring into a dressing table mirror, will

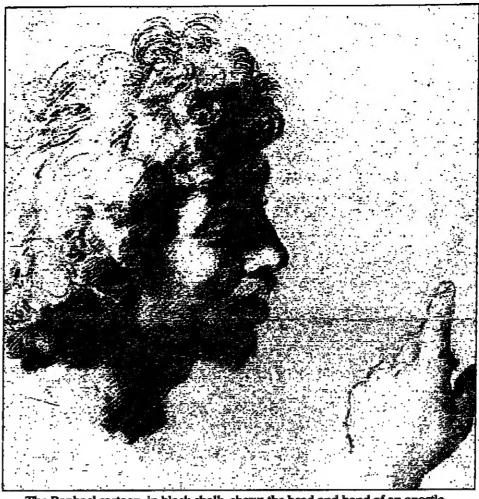
al, who was also on the rostrum when the Raphael was first offered in the saleroom, in 1984. The sale yesterday completed a hattrick for Mr Annesley: he also took the auction that saw a Michelangelo study fetch £4.1 million, the record price prior Raphael work yesterday.

"I have been with the firm 32 years and I think this sale is undoubtedly a highlight of my career," Mr Annesley said. "It was amazing to sell this drawing again. It was a mar-vellous price for a marvellous

In 1984 the Raphael was the centrepiece of a group of 21 Old Master drawings sold by the Duke of Devonshire for a total of £21.1 million. It made E3.5 million, a record at that time, and was bought anonymously by an American. Yesterday's buyer was also anonymous.

Raphael (1483-1520) was known for his meticulous preparation and the drawing was one of six on the same theme. The Duke of Devonshire still owns one of them but the others are in museums in Britain and Austria.

The Raphael overshadowed a study by Leonardo da Vinci. illustrating the folds of a cloak on a kneeling figure. The 1470s



مكذا بمن الملاحل

The Raphael cartoon, in black chalk, shows the head and hand of an apostle

work failed to sell yesterday. It made £3.7 million at Sotheby's in Monaco in 1989.

Other works easily topped their estimate, however. A Marieschi study of the Doge's Palace, Venice, sold for £1.5 million (estimate £600,000 to £800,000) and St Francis and Brother Leo in Meditation by El Greco went for £1.4 million (£700,000 to £l million).

Other auction houses had success with Old Masters sales this week. Phillips took £2.6 million, with 81 per cent sold, and Sotheby's achieved £10.2 million with 89 per cent sold. Mr Annesley predicted new buoyancy in the Old Masters market. "The market. which has been in the doldrums, is triumphant again. I saw hands shooting up all over the room from the rosencouraging for Old Masters

☐ A painting by the i5th century Florentine master Fra Filippo Lippi, entitled St John the Evangelist, was withdrawn at the last minute from the Christie's sale by its owner, Barbara Johnson, heiress to the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical products empire. A Christie's

spokeswoman said reports that the painting might have been smuggled out of Italy had not created the "right atmosphere" for the sale.

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Credo

Let prejudice and ignorance give way to tolerance

Indarjit Singh

AN IMPORTANT teachlabels but in the way we conduct ourselves. It follows from this that, if God sees us for what we are, rather than the labels we give ourselves, we too should look beyond our religious brand names to the product within. We should look beyond the mist of ignorance and prejudice and see and respect others for what they are, and make tolerance a cornerstone of our attitude to

The word tolerance, as the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr George Carey. observed in his Sir Francis Younghusband Lecture last month, is much overused and misunderstood. It is, he observed, frequently equated with indifference and it is easy to be tolerant of things we do not care about. Yet, as Dr Carey said, "there is also a right intolerance which reacts against such things as in-justice or exploitation". The question posed by Dr Carey was: can there be toleration when there is incompatibil-ity of beliefs?

It was a question faced by Guru Teg Bahadur, the 9th Guru of the Sikhs whose martyrdom in 1675 is com-

memorated tomorrow. The Guru lived at a time of intense religious perse-cution in India. The tyrant Au-rangzeb had imprisoned his ather, Shah Jahan, and seized Mogul

sion of the Hindu masses to his version of Islam. In Kashmir, buge bonfires were made daily of the sacred threads worn by high-caste Hindus. In desperation, Hindu priests from Kashmir visited Guru Teg Bahadur for advice and support.

They said to the Guru: "We know you don't agree

practices, but you and other Sikh gurus have always spoken out on the right of all people to follow their own way of life. We appeal to you for your help in our hour of need." The Guru listened in silence. He knew that any action by him would put his own life at risk. But he also knew that persecution had to be resisted and that it was better to die for one's ideals than to live false to one's

beliefs. He agreed to intercede on the Hindus' behalf. He told the delegation: Tell the Emperor to cease his persecution. Tell him you have come to me as your leader and that, if I accept Islam, you will readily follow."

The message was duly conveyed to the Emperor. Even tyrants do not like to court undue hatred and Aurangzeb, seeing this as an easy way to further mass conversion, summoned Guru Teg Bahadur to Delhi. The Guru was first offered lavish bribes -palaces and enormous wealth — to give up his faith. He refused. He was then tortured. He still refused. Then, on a cold winter's day, he was public-ly beheaded by the enraged Emperor for his stand on

religious freedom. It was Voltaire who said: "! disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Years earlier. Guru Bahadur, in defending the right

choice, gave this noble sentiment practical utterance. He wrote: "Never seek to intimidate others, nor be cowed by another's might." Guru Teg Bahadur lived

and died as he taught — the very epitome of tolerance. □ Indarjit Singh, JP, is editor of the Sikh Messen-ger and Director of the Network of Sikh



By Staff Reporters

bury, Dr George Carey, was due last night to urge Chris-tians and Hindus to co-operate on issues such as

Dr Carey's address, during his first visit to the Swaminarayan temple in Neasden, northwest London, said: Building on a foundation of our common humanity, our shared spiritual quest and our common longings for peace, acceptance and love, we can speak and act together in a number of ways.

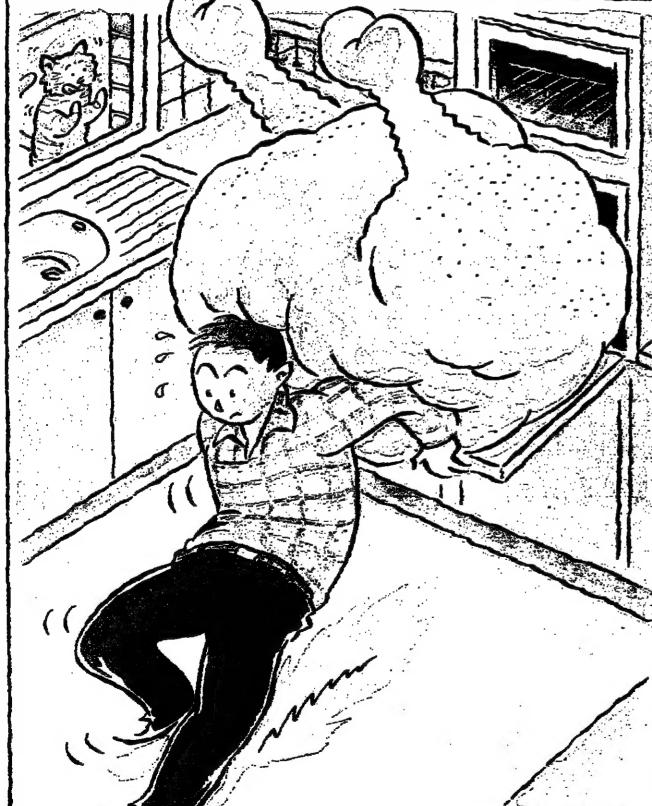
"For instance, we can' together stand against the evils of racism; we can together challenge the materialism that threatens to become all-enveloping; we can together work for the protection and enhancement of our environment; we can together bring practical help and support to those who suffer."

Lambeth Palace said that in accepting the invitation to visit

THE Archbishop of Canter- the temple, Dr Carey was emphasising his wish to foster good relations between Christians and the various faith communities both in this country and abroad. Since becoming Archbishop in 1991 he has shown this by meeting individuals and groups and by visiting places of worship and community centres from vari-

ous faith traditions. ☐ Five candidates were interviewed yesterday for the appointment of vicar of Selby in north Yorkshire. Three incumbents at the 11th century Selby Abbey left within five years. all blaming friction within the

parish over the way it is run. The Archbishop of York set up an investigation into what he called the "dark cloud" hanging over church. Its report referred to a power struggle and personality clashes, between clergy and laity. The appointment is to expected to be announced





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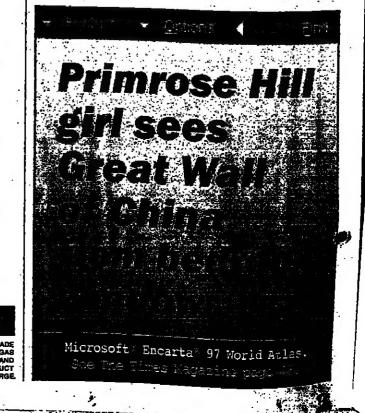


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French go-slow forces ski instructors to miss the snow rush

AND JOANNA BALE

AS THOUSANDS of British skiers set off for the French Alps this weekend to the best snow conditions for years they will be leaving behind a band of frustrated British

The instructors are casualties in the latest battle between French and British ski schools, which

to teach English-speaking skiers.

Despite guarantees by Alain Juppe, the French Prime Minister, that British instructors are free at last of restrictions, the French ski industry appears to have found a new way of keeping them off the slopes. Delays by the authorities in processing teaching permits and in organising obligatory aptitude tests mean that many instructors

The instructors hope to chall-

enge the French Government in the European Court of Justice. and have the support of Mario Monti, the European Commis-sioner responsible for free movement of labour. He told the BBC's E Files programme, to be screened tomorrow, that the Commission was prepared to take the French Government to the European

rules about the free movement of

In previous seasons, French ski schools used legal action and threats of violence to protect their teaching monopoly. Now the French Skiing Federation has a backlog of permit applications from British instructors waiting to be cleared. The federation said it had more than 24 applications

Court for breaching single market from Britain but declined to comment on the number approved. A racing test on a slatom piste, which applicants have to pass before they are allowed to teach, has also been delayed until next year. David Renouf, chairman of the British Association of Ski Instructors, said: "Our top instructors are sitting on their hands in Britain

Many European resorts are experiencing the best conditions for years. So much snow fell across the Alps at the beginning of the month that cars, snow cannons and even chalets were hidden. Much of the excess has been cleared leaving perfect ski condi-tions. In Alpe D'Huez, a highlevel reson at 1800 metres, there is 90cm of snow on the lower slopes and 25 metres at the top, while in

1200 metres, there is 35cm on the lower slones and 1.9 metres at the top. More snow is forecast for today and Monday. A spokesman for the Ski Club of Great Britain said: "These are exceptionally good conditions for this time of year and illustrate the whole situation across the Alps."

Weather, page 22



Armed policeman guarded the court yesterday

McAliskey is denied bail despite fears for her baby

LABOUR peers and histori-ans have joined the growing campaign for Roisin Germany over an IRA mortar bomb attack on British army barracks last year - to be freed on bail while awaiting extradition proceedings.

Twenty people gathered out-side Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London, amid tight security yesterday as Ms McAliskey, who is about four months pregnant, made an hour-long appearance.
Miss McAliskey, 25, the

daughter of former nationalist MP Bernadette Devlin, asked for bail on medical grounds, and produced a doctor's report stating she was in danger of losing her baby.

Gareth Peirce, Miss McAliskey's solicitor, told the court that her medical needs had been ignored in Holloway Prison, despite the magistrate's instructions at her pre-



Roisin McAliskey, left. Her mother Bernadette, the former MP, was at yesterday's hearing

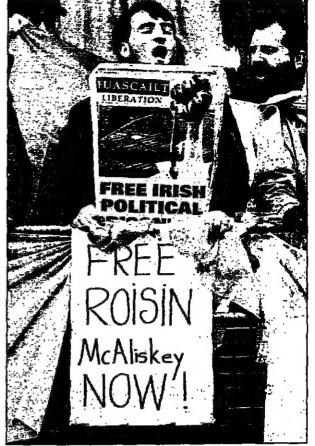
vious appearance that she be well cared for. Mrs Peirce also said that offers of sureties totalling £200,000 had been made by prominent figures on both sides of the Irish Sea. Among those offering to stand bail were Lord Stallard former north London Labour MP and minister Jock Stallard - and writer and historian Peter Beresford Ellis, as well

as Catholic and Protestant neighbours of Miss McAliskey from Co Tyrone. However, Ronald Bartle, stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street, ordered that Miss McAliskey return to prison after being told by John Hardy, appearing for the German Government, that her escape while on bail would be "a

until December 20, Mr Bartle said that the doctor's report made "disturbing reading". But he added: "This court has no authority whatever where questions of prison administration are concerned. That said. I commented on the last occasion that Miss McAliskey's condition should be properly provided for. I feel that my public duty demands that I do not alter my previous ruling."

Detective Inspector Andrew Hewitt, of Scotland Yard's organised crime branch, said that the extradition papers were expected to be served by the federal German prosecufor next week.

Later. Miss McAliskey's mother said: "If an emergency arises, how is the State going to compensate my daughter for the reality that, if at the end of the day there is no warrant, no proceedings, no conviction. my child loses her child in that



Protesters chanted "British justice, no justice"

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Playground rowdies face £500 fines

By IAN MURRAY

CHILDREN could be fined up to £500 for singing and shouting too loudly in the playground under a bylaw being considered by a Liberal Democrat council.

The regulations have been drawn up after complaints of noise and vandalism by residents of two estates at Skipton. North Yorkshire, Craven Dis trict Council is also considering banning children over 14 from using the playgrounds for riding bicycles or playing ball games. Children could be fined if they ignored a warning to make less noise.

These playgrounds are designed for use only by little children but there is a history of misuse by teenagers, especially in the evenings," Michael Turnbull, the council solicitor, said. There are plenty of grassy areas where ball games can be played legally but these playgrounds are not suitable for that kind of thing."

'Unwanted' D'Oyly Carte finds a home

By Joanna Bale

THE D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is to move to Wolverhampton after settling a sponsorship deal with Tarmac, the construction firm based there.

The industrial giant has agreed to give the opera company support over four years. The borough council

The D'Oyly Carte has decided to leave Birmingham, where it settled six years ago. after relations turned sour last December when the Labour-led City Council refused to increase the company's £300,000-a-year grants and rent subsidy. The company complained it was "not wanted" in Birmingham and began negotiations with other towns

Productions will be based at Wolverhampton's Grand The-atre but the confusion over the company's future home

Treat Yourself to a

means its new season, including performances of The Gon-dollers, will not be launched until next autumn. Last night, the D'Oyly

Carte's manager, Ray Brown, said the company would be seeking further private spons-orship. Tarmac this week hosted a dinner for the D'Oyly larre at its nead Wolverhampton which was attended by Mr Brown and the opera company's chairman, Sir Michael Bishop.

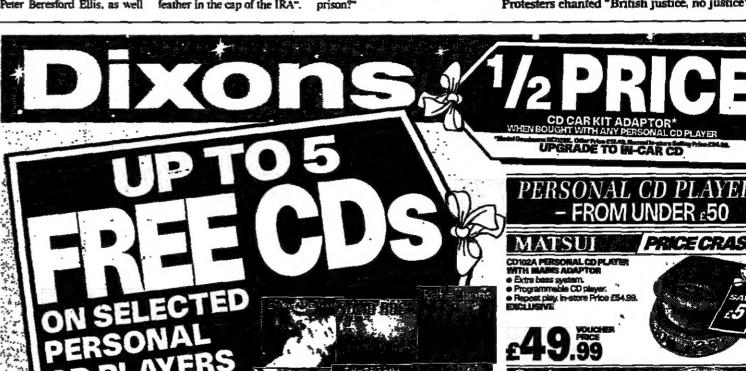
The company, which still has offices in Birmingham's John Bright Street, has a turnover of about £2 million of which it earns £1.7 million in ticket sales and merchandising. A spokesman for Birmingham council said: "It's a shame Tarmac could not have come up with the

money in the years the com-

pany was here."

Arts, page 17

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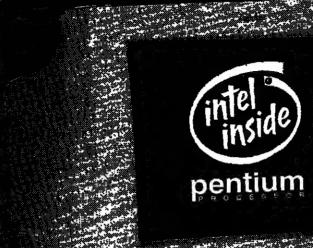
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MEWS IN BRIEF

Epidemic

'near end'

but nurse

falls ill

A nurse treating victims of Scotland's E.coli 0157 outbreak at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary has contract-

ed the infection. The news came just hours after Sir David Carter, Scotland's chief medical officer, said the dan-

ger of secondary spread had not materialised during the

outbreak, which has infected

310 people and killed 11. and

predicted that, if there were no new cases, the epidemic could be over by next week.

Tunnel repairs

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CURBS on the sale and possession of knives were unanimously backed by MPs yesterday. They include more police powers to search for knives and a ban on advertisements that suggest a knife is suitable for combat or encourage violent behaviour.

A Bill introduced by Jimmy Wray, the Labour member for Glasgow Provan, passed its second reading in the Com-mons. David Maclean, a Home Office minister, said the Bill would tackle the "menace of knife-related crime. I believe the proposals in this Bill will make a significant contribution in stamping out the unpleasant and unacceptable ways that combat knives are marketed."

The proposals provided "a sensible extension of stop-andsearch powers, with three major constraints - it has to happen in a particular locality, be authorised by a senior police officer and limited in time", Mr Maclean said that the Bill would send "a clear signal . . . that society will not tolerate knife-related crime".

Although ministers have refused to bring forward a Government Bill to outlaw combat knives, citing difficul-ties in drawing up definitions, the Home Office drafted yesterday's Private Member's Bill. It is expected to become law early next year in repaign against combat knives that began with the murder of Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster. The Bill makes it an offence to publish any material in connection with gests the knife is suitable for

It provides a limited extension of police powers to stop and search for blades and introduces a jail term of up to two years for anyone who markets combat knives.

Mr Wray, referring to the campaign for a ban on combat knives that followed Mr Lawrence's stabbing last Decem-ber, said: "Let's pass this Bill without delay. That will be a victory for Mrs Lawrence and a victory for common sense. I want young people to be heroes and give up their knives, and stop the senseless murders and stabbings.

"Carrying a knife is not for protection or a sign of strength, but a sign of weakness that comes from people without the courage to take these knives off the street." Mr Wray said that the

names of some knives betrayed their purpose. He highlighted mail-order catalogues advertising "a Terminator terror sword, . a monstrous double-handed sword and a commando knife complete with blood channels described as an ideal Christmas present. I, for one, do not wish to see stockings filled this Christmas with such weaponry."

Alun Michael, a Labour

Home Affairs spokesman. said: "We have argued for years that the carrying and sale of combat knives must be

Sharp operator will try to outwit the law

By Russell Jenkins

DEALERS are preparing to outwit the Bill on knives by changing the names of their the Rigger, and The Viper products. Machetes, daggers would become The Linesepithets as Terminator and The Assassin would be given less dramatic names acceptable under the wording of the

16 MBYTE PRICE

্য ক্রিপ্রের জনসংগ্র ব্যবস্থা

aging director of Battle Orders, one of the country's knife. offering knives, said that he aimed to stay in business by "tinkering" with the wording of his advertising material.

The company, based at Eastbourne, offers an extensive selection of military, mar-

Pen and Knife would revert to the Pen and Kmife, and Assassin Triple Throwing Knives would lose the word assassin. The British World War II

The company proposes a statement in its advertisements that would include the words: "There is absolutely no suggestion that any knife offered is suitable for combat as a weapon for inflicting injury on a person or causing pertial and sporting collectors' sons to fear injury."



Prey: a stuffed Siberian tiger cub in a pharmacy in Taiwan. The demands of traditional Chinese medicine make the slaughter lucrative

Ill-equipped volunteers brave bombs and bullets to save the Siberian tiger

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

THE bomb which tore through the Russian busiously injuring him and killing his wife and daughter, was a terrible indication of the lengths to which the country's mafia is prepared to go to protect their lucrative slaughter of Siberian tigers.

A price had been put on the the businessman's life after he helped undercover agents from the Russian wildlife protection team. Operation Amba, to infiltrate a gang trading in tiger skins and body parts in the Khabarovsk region of the Russian Federation's Far East.

Illicit trade in wildlife worldwide is worth £4 billion a veer, more profitable than the illegal arms trade, says Interpol, but few governhat the increasing slaughter. leaving the job to poorly paid and ill-equipped teams like Operation Amba.

Russia's Ministry of the Environment established the squad in January 1994 to combat cross-border poaching from China and the activities of local gangs in the Primorsk territory, home to 85 per cent of the remaining Siberian tiger population of

only 150. Moscow did not have the money to pay its twenty



endangered species

volunteers, drawn mainly from the military and nature reserve workers, and had to rely on charities like Tusk Force to provide the four reconditioned army trucks that serve both as operational base and mobile home for Operation Amba - meaning "great sovereign", a local word for tiger. The five men in each patrol sleep on nar-row wooden benches inside the truck in sub-zero tempera-

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THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL TUSK FORCE

tures in the forests of Siberia. Equipped with hand-held radios, cooking equipment and a meagre armoury, the patrols spend three weeks out of the end of this century." every month stalking poachers across two eastern regions

the size of France. Steve Glaster of Tusk Force's US partner, the Global Survival Network, who helped to set up the operation said: Their work is dismal, dirty and dangerous but without their courage and enterprise there is no question the Siberian tiger would have been hunted to extinction by

The manufacturers of traditional Chinese medicine grind the tiger bones to a powder as a cure for ulcers. The genitalia are regarded as an aphrodisiac and the animal's brain is thought to remedy laziness and acne.

The trade in skins and body

aphrodisiaes has wiped out

three sub-species of tiger this

century and reduced the glob-

al population from 100,000 to

The mafia collects £40,000

for each tiger while the Amba

volunteers pitted against them are paid less than £200

Their commander, Vladi-

mir Shetinin, resembles an Old Testament figure with his flowing white beard. In

violent language, he explains that he and his rangers are

determined to eradicate posching, no matter the evi-

dent personal risk to them and their families.

One of his team, a 50-year-

old former Soviet sailor, re-

cently uncovered a smuggling ring dealing in

drugs and tiger parts between the city of Arsenyev in Primorsk and Vladivostock.

Local police warned the

Amba ranger to "leave it

alone" but the man refused

and days later was ambushed

at his home and badly beaten.

Amba's efforts have cut

poaching within Russia's po-

rous borders by 75 per cent but gun battles are frequent.

Mr Glaster said: Tigers breed prolifically left to their

own devices and Amba's

presence has allowed them a

chance to replenish their

number but the risk from

poachers grows ever greater."

fewer than 5,000.

a month.

Workmen have begun to re-pair the £10,000 damage caused to the Blackwall tunnel by a lorry driver earlier this week. The southbound side of the tunnel will be closed tonight and tomorrow from 9.30pm to 6am. **Boy rapist**

A teenager who raped a woman aged 93 in a churchyard was ordered to be de-tained for 12 years at Chichester Crown Court. Steven Barton was 15 when he attacked the woman near his home in Storrington, West Sussex.

Couple banned

A learner driver and her husband have been banned from driving after they were both convicted of drink-driving by magistrates. Nigel Beal, 25, of Nottingham, had been giving his wife Jennifer, 19, a private driving lesson.

Tote Bill backed

A Bill to allow the Tote's 200 shops to take bets on the Lucky Choice Irish Lottery and other events was given an unop-posed second reading. The Horserace Totalisator Board Bill has cross-party support. Racing, pages 40, 41

Mail drop sold

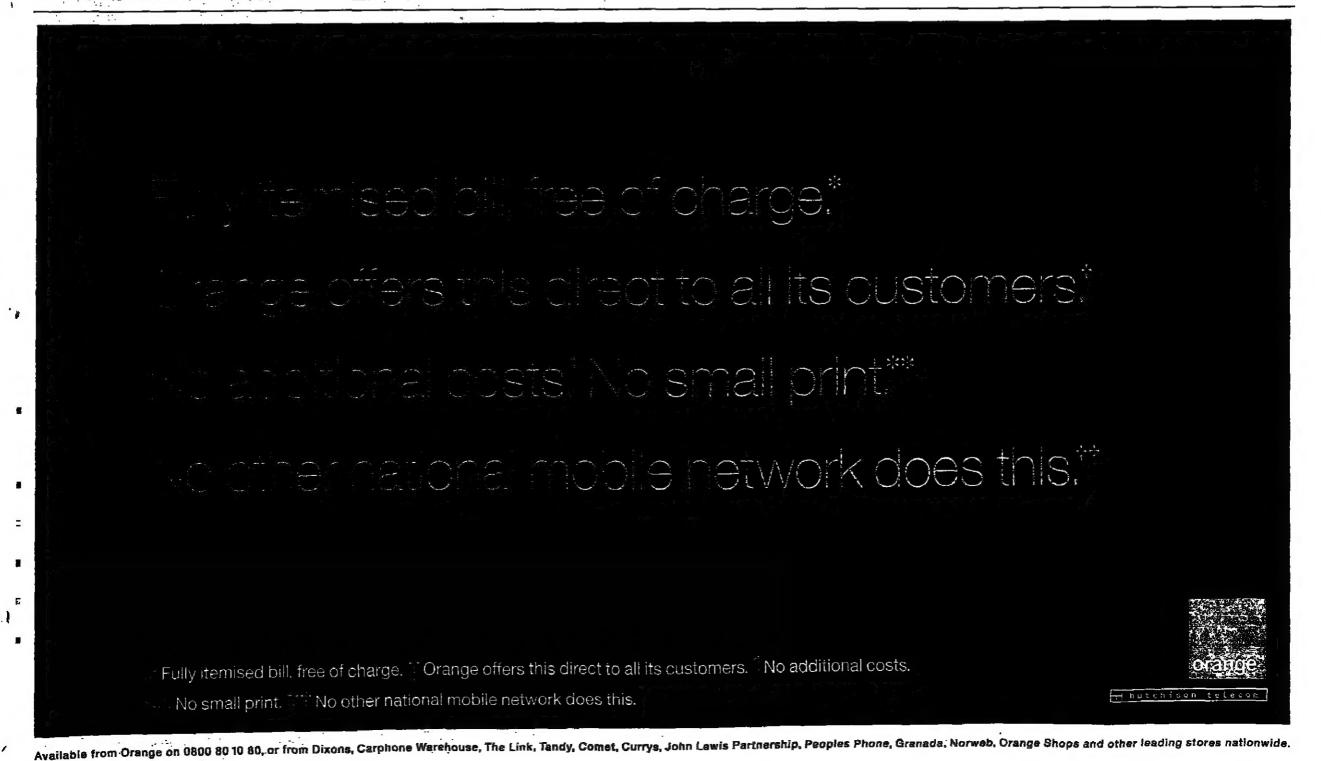
A letter mysteriously dropped over Nova Sconia during the 1919 Transatlantic crossing to New York by the British airship R34 sold to an anonymous buyer at Sotheby's in London for £13,800.

Merle to be sued

Olivier Merle, the French rugby international, is being sued by Ricky Evans for £25,000 for loss of earnings and medical costs over injuries Evans sustained in a match in 1995. He has not played for Wales since.

Fruitful life

Bill Perry, 93, who has worked for 80 years at the greengro-cer's shop started by his father at Swinton, Greater Manchester, closes it for the last time today after health officials required renovation work.









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Ministers fear being toppled by coalition of opposition parties after by-election wipes out majority

Divisions may force Major into earlier election

JOHN MAJOR may bring forward the likely date for the general election from May I to March 20 if his unruly MPs do not behave themselves. He admitted for the first time yesterday that indiscipline in the ranks could hamper his

TA WASHIRS REPRESENT

AND COCKING APPUARE

Speaking in Dublin hours after his Commons majority had been wiped out by the Barnsley by-election, he suggested the result would not make a "material difference". But he added: "Providing people behave themselves, we will get through to our pre-ferred date."

While Mr Major was careful not to confirm that May 1 was his preference, it has long been accepted at Westminster that the Prime Minister and Cabinet would like to soldier on as long as possible and hold the election on the same day as the annual local

However, some influential ministers are now pencilling in March 20 as a serious option, believing that the further they go into 1997, the

opposition parties on a confidence vote. The first test of the Government's position will come on Monday, when MPs vote on the European Com-mon Fisheries Policy but there were signs last night that the usual rebels might rally round in an attempt to save the Government from defeat. Last year the Government was defeated by two votes when two Tories and seven Ulster Unionists voted against the

Ulster Unionists abstained. Yesterday, several of the potential rebels indicated that the stark reality that the Tories no longer had a majority would pull them into line. There were also signs that

olicy. Eleven Tories and two

last-minute pressure not to inflict a Commons defeat.

MPs with fishing constitu

encies who abstained last year indicated yesterday that they would vote with the Government. The former "whipless" Euro-rebels, normally incandescent about the fisheries policy, appeared more conciliatory. David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives, who has previously rebelled against the Government over fisheries is sues, warned Euro-scepties

against a revolt.

This is not the time to kick the Government and ministers have sat up and taken notice of what we said last year," he said. "Labour will try to take the opportunity to exploit the lack of a majority but there is simply not the same feeling among Tory backbenchers as there was last year."
Mr Harris and Euro-sceptic

MPs say that ministers have won concessions over fishing quotas, "No one can accuse the Government of not taking the warning they were given," he



Victory toast: Jeff Ennis joins his wife Margaret and their family for breakfast after winning the Barnsley East by-election yesterday

paralysed with panic. This is not necessarily an issue which we want to push at the moment." Another MP who rebelled last year and is firmly against the common fisheries policy said that he would prefer to confine his attacks on the Government to campaignagainst the

last night: "Unless the Gov-

issue over Europe. We may not be entirely happy but we can't ignore the fact that an election is only months away." Senior Unionist Party figsenior Unionist Party fig-ures, who could hold the Government's fate in their hands early in the new year,

go its full term. The belief is that, at some point in the new year, they will conclude that their political advantage would best be

are privately predicting that the Parliament is unlikely to

in a confidence vote. Aware of this possibility, ministers are saying that Mr Major might benefit most by opting for a date of his own choosing an election on Labour's terms, The earlier date could also mean that the election would be held before the potentially explosive Commons inquiry into the Neil Hamilton "cash for questions" affair has com-

In Dublin yesterday, Mr Major and his ministers

ional decisions taken behind adopted an election earing tone closed doors in meetings of in some of their pronouncesocialist leaders." He added: ments, in a reference to the red "I am here. They will have to carpet treatment given to Tony deal with me and I expect to be Blair when he met socialist here after the election and they leaders the day before, Mr will still have to deal with me. Major said there was no doubt Malcolm Rifkind, the Forthat some governments at the eign Secretary, said that some summit would prefer to deal

with a socialist government in governments saw Mr Biair as a "soft option". No Conservathe United Kingdom. tive wanted to see a federal He said European socialists met routinely before summits Europe or was prepared to surrender Britain's veto in the to try to agree their positions. way that Mr Blair "I don't think the British people would like their nat-

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Blair woos | Tories hit with new neutrality

BY NICHOLAS WALL

TONY Blair sent a powerful signal to Unionists yesterday that Labour's active support for trish unity would be abandoned in the party's gen-eral election manifesto.

In his first set piece speech on Northern Ireland since becoming Labour leader in 1994. Mir Blair made clear in Beliast that he had shed his party's pro-nationalist image. He told business and union leaders at Oueen's University

that Labour was committed to the principle of consent, under which the future of Northern Ireland would be decided only by its people. But, in a marked departure from Labour's 1992 election manifesto, which committed the party to sup-porting Irish unity, he indicat-ed that a Labour Government would be neutral on Northern Ireland's : constitutional

He said: "It is not for a Labour Government to dictate what the final outcome should be. That has been part of the change in all our attitudes." The speech was an attempt

by Mr Blair to reassure Unionists that a Labour Government would continue John Major's work on the Northern Ireland peace process. The 13 Unionist MPs, nine of whom are Ulster Unionists; now have a pivotal role after Mr Major's majority was wiped out in Thursday's Barnsley East by-election.

Labour sources stressed last night that Mr Blair's speech did not mark a shift in policy because he had consistently voiced strong support for the 1993 Downing Street Declaration, which enshrined the principle of consent. However, this is the first time that Mr Blair has spelt out his party's approach on Northern Ireland election manifesto.

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LOWE

Unionists | the jackpot with party lottery

By JAMES LANDALE

TORY party members have raised more than £700,000 for their constituency coffers with a Christmas lottery. The Intal of £718,287 is believed to be one of the largest amounts raised by a British political party from its individual

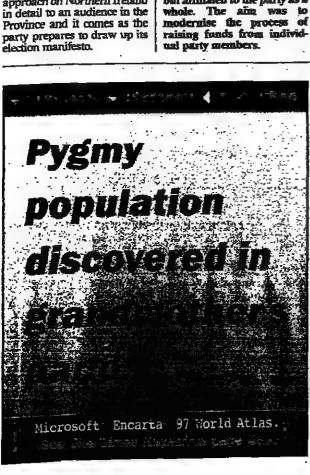
members in a single event. Last year's Christmas draw raised £450,000. This year party members bought 620,000 of the lottery tickets at il each and added £100,000

Lord Archer of Westonsuper-Mare, a veteran Tory fundraiser, said: "If only we could use the same teamwork in the House of Commons that we are showing in the constituencies, then we would

Win five elections in a row." With a further £450,000 the local parties have raised more than £1.1 million this year. Under the payout system, 80 per cent of the money sent in by party members goes back to their own constituency association. The remainder is used for the prizes and administration

This year, the top prize was an MGF sports car in British Racing Green. Other prizes included a ten-day safari in Kenya, five video camcorders, ten half-cases of champagne, ten Christmas hampers and 100 Christmas puddings. Tories in Hert-fordshire South West were the most generous, sending in more than £8,000, with Cirencester and Tewkesbury

coming a close second. The lottery was set up last year by the National Conservative Draws Society, a new group which is independent but affiliated to the party as a nal party members.





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Falklands fortune sorts the sheep from the sheikhs

THE Falkland Islands face a new danger more insidious. relentless and destabilising than any military threats from Argentina: the discovery of oil.

If the wells to be drilled in any of the offshore tranches licensed in October to more than a dozen multinational oil companies produce commercially exploitable yields, the islands will be rich beyond their dreams. The prospect is already causing arguments and apprehension in the tightknit community of 2,400

people.
No one knows how much oil revenues will be. However. during the licensing round the Falklands. Government prepared graphs of potential earnings from two hypothetical fields, yielding 250 million and 500 million barrels. The results are staggering: the likely income to the islands if the larger field is found would average £1.1 billion a year over a 20-year period — the equivalent of £483,653 for every man,



The prospect of untold riches has divided islanders and put them into conflict with Britain, Michael Binyon writes from Port Stanley

lands. The calculation as-sumes a royalty of 9 per cent and tranquillity of the Falkand a company tax of 325 per cent. with oil selling at \$18 a barrel. If such fields are found, the revenue would not begin flowing until about 2003, and t would tail off by 2020.

Exploration costs are huge. and the field would have to be at least 100 million barrels before oil companies would invest there. They may find nothing, or only gas, which could not be brought ashore in the present political climate. Will the simple folk whose

forefathers sailed to the isolated and austere archipelago inevitably go the way of the Gulf sheikhs, lazing in luxury

lands be for ever ruined by frenetic exploitation and mas-sive spills? And, most worryingly, will neighbour be set against neighbour or the Falkland Islands against the mother country in the ugly scramble for wealth?

Already even the prospect of oil is creating tensions with Britain. The islands' council, decides all policy except defence and foreign affairs, has formally offered to pay the running costs of Mount Pleasant, the 2,000-strong garrison clustered around the post-1982

about £67 million a year.



The Royal Marines band marches past the Port Stanley monument commemorating the liberation of the Falklands on June 14, 1982

Falkland figure to be fixed before oil is struck and wranbegins. The islanders How can you ask us to

ask. Britain has a swift retort: it is not asking for a cash figure but a sliding percentage depending on what is found.

Both sides recognise grow-

London has ruled out a direct tax — "shades of the Boston tea party", as Richard Ralph, the Governor, admitted, And the principle has been fixed

colonies are now called, are entitled to their natural resources. However, the Falklanders' argument is weakened by a

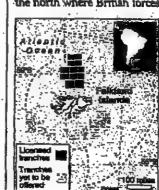
concession granted, uniquely in the wake of the 1982 victory: all are full British citizens with the right of abode. "Imagine the outcry in Britain if a Scottish island suddenly became obscenely rich and refused to share its wealth," an official said. Oil is also fuelling another

argument raging in Stanley: should the population be increased? Already the economy has been overheated by the £20 million annual income from fishing licences.

Grandiose new projects are mooted daily, but the labour shortage is acute and already the Government has more money than it can spend. Surfacing new roads is impossible without imported expertise. Every Falklander holds two or three jobs and improvisation has reached its limits.

Even if oil pumping and storage is kept offshore, the Falklands will see a huge inflow of visitors and contract

Andrew Gurr, the Islands" Chief Executive, and the Falkland Islands Development try concentrated in a purposebuilt new town, probably in the north where British forces



landed at San Carlos, to avoid swamping Stanley.

Oil-related development could double or triple the population. There is plenty of room, as the islands are bigger than Wales. Outside experts and sociological studies, now being commissioned on what must be the world's most intensively scrutinised society. all point to the essential need to bring in more people.

Most Falklanders will have

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none of it, however. "Even another 50 families would change our society," they say. Many regret the passing of the quieter, pre-1982 days, and are fatigued by the many changes since. Always slow to accept newcomers, they are now suspicious that would-be immigrants are trying to cash in on future boom, and have lengthened to seven years the residency required to become a Falklander.

They see a real danger in importing cheap foreign labour, probably from Chile, on gration Bill will be the most controversial issue the council must tackle before next October's elections.

The final-irony of oil wealth is that it will exaggerate the disparity between Stanley and the rest of the islands. Rural wool prices slump, and now only 400 people live scattered in the islands.

A new study speaks of the moral need to populate the islands, if only to make a point to Argentina. The temptation to give up and join the Stanley oil boom is enormous. Some suggest cash handouts to struggling farmers. For others, that would be the end of the Falkland spirit: transformed to a Gulf-style economy or, in the phrase that sticks in islanders' guilets, the new Kuwait.

Leading article, page 19

Make sure someone gets the message this Christmas.



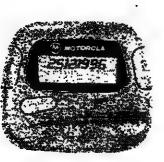
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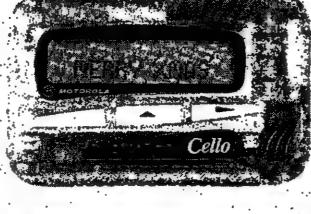
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Internal

Annan to head UN as France caves in

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

KOFI ANNAN, the head of United Nations peacekeeping, won unanimoud support as the organisation's next Secretary-General esterday after America prevailed in as ugly dispute with France

M Annan, an affable Ghanaian, won consensus in the 15nation Security Council after Frace relented on its threat to vett him. The decision will be ratified next week by the UN Gereral Assembly.

the choice of a new UN chief became a struggle for influence between the English-speaking and fracophone worlds. Mr Annan's appointment for a five-year term is a oplomatic victory for the United States, which had cast its veto to block the re-election of Boutros Boitros Ghali, an Egyptian educard in France.

rance, Dr Boutros Ghali's stanchest supporter, had voted against the American-educated M Annan in the first five rounds of straw-polling and supported thee rival candidates from Franch-speaking African coun-tris, all of them educated in Fance. The francophone candidaes were all eliminated, however when Britain joined America in

casting a double veto against them in a move that France considered a slap in the face".

British officials were overjoyed that the next Secretary-General would come from an Englishspeaking African country, giving Britain the opportunity to seek the same privileged access at the UN that France enjoyed under Dr Bouros Ghali. Sir John Weston, the British Ambassador at the UN, raced out of the closed Security Council meeting to be the first diplomat to announce the decision to the waiting television cameras. France lifted its veto threat

against Mr Annan when it became clear that he enjoyed broad sup-port, particularly in Africa. In truth, France had no real objec-tions to him personally, since he worked closely with Paris during the Bosnia operation and speaks adequate French. As he tried to show off his language skills in recent days, diplomats joked that he had even begun speaking

English with a French accent. Mr Annan, 58, joined the World Health Organisation as a lowly administrative officer in 1962 and will be the first UN official to rise

world's top diplomatic post. He can be expected to run the organisanon as a technocrat and to have a lower profile than his predecessor.

Holding a management degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr Annan has served in a variety of UN financial posts before moving to the peace-keeping department. He was promoted to the top job in peacekeeping when the United States wanted to hand over its peacekeeping mission in Somalia to UN command.

UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia and Bosnia, Mr Annan avoided the harsh criticism levelled at Dr Boutros Ghali for the mishaps in both places, Col-leagues often comment that he has non-stick Tellon qualities. Mr Annan is married with three children to the niece of Raoul

Although he ran the troubled

who saved thousands of Jews from the Nazis in the Second World War before being imprisoned by the Soviet Union. His selection raised hopes at UN

Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat



Warnings heeded as Clinton keeps on his law chief

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ANNOUNCING a series of appointments to his secondterm Administration yester-day, President Clinton grudgingly allowed Janet Reno, the Attorney-General who has led investigations into White House scandals, to remain in his Cabinet.

William Daley, 48, a Democratic Party activist and brother of the Mayor of Chicago, was named as Commerce Secretary, replacing Mickey Kantor, who is leaving. Bill Richardson, 49, a New Mexico congressman, is to be US Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, the previous Ambassador, was carlier appointed Secretary of State.

As part of Mr Clinton's new economic team, Gene Sperling, a senior presidential aide, is to head the National Economic Council created by Mr Clinton to formulate fiscal policy. Robert Rubin remains Treasury Secretary and Frank Raines Budget Director.

Charlene Barshefsky, the acting US Trade Representative, was formally appointed

to the job, and Dan Glickman, the Agriculture Secretary, and Bruce Babbitt, the Interior Secretary, will remain in

The President's choices produced little excitement in Washington and gave no sig-nal of a policy change. Mr Richardson, who has made a name for himself as a freelance troubleshooter negotiating with less democratic regimes around the world, was chosen in part for his Hispanic roots, which the White House hopes will assuage powerful Latin groups concerned about being shur out of the new Cabinet.

The focus yesterday, however, was on Ms Reno. Mr Clinton waited more than five weeks after his re-election to guarantee her continuation as Attorney-General. Republicans had made it known that any attempt by the President to replace the woman who had sought four independent counsel investigations into his Administration would result in further widespread inquiries into the White House.

Disney eases pain of executive exit with \$90m payoff

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

SPIRING Hollywood moall Michael Ovitz has eased he humiliation of his parting fom the Disney Company with a \$90 million (£56 mil-

Mr Ovitz's abrupt depar tire from the world's secondlirgest entertainment giant on Thursday ends months of damaging rumours of a titatic clash of egos in the wboardroom.

The deal was negotiated in secret in a four-hour midnight meeting between Mr Ovitz and the man he hoped to succed as Disney's chair-

mai, it emerged yesterday.

Michael Eisner, who has turied the company into a globi powerhouse with an annal turnover of \$21 billion, York apartment on Wednesday night as speculation abou a rift mounted. By 2.30an on Thursday, the pair ment that Mr Ovitz would

leave by mutual agreement". Hi: \$90 million sweetener, made up of \$50 million in cash and \$40 million of Disney tock, follows a year of intrime and extravagance but not one notable achievement by a figure once regarded as Hollwood's most powerful man. Hired as the company's

second-in-command in the wake of a heart bypass operation on Mr Eisner, Mr Ovitz left a renowned talent agency he had built from scratch, the Creative Artists' Agency. At Disney headquarters in Burbank, the reputation he had built Ψp. destroyed.

"He struggled with just what he was supposed to do," Stephen Bollenbach, the former Disney chief financial officer, told Vanity Fair in an especially wounding article last month.

Instead of relieving Mr Bisner of some of the burden of running Disney and its huge new acquisition, the ABC television network, Mr Ovitz appears to have upset from the start by hiring seven secretaries and having drivers always on call.

Most recently the company's move to expand into China, spearheaded by Mr Ovitz, ran into trouble over a film about the Dalai Lama being made by Martin

A Disney executive said yesterday that in the final weeks Mr Ovitz "was like a crazy uncle at a family reunion. Nobody would talk to

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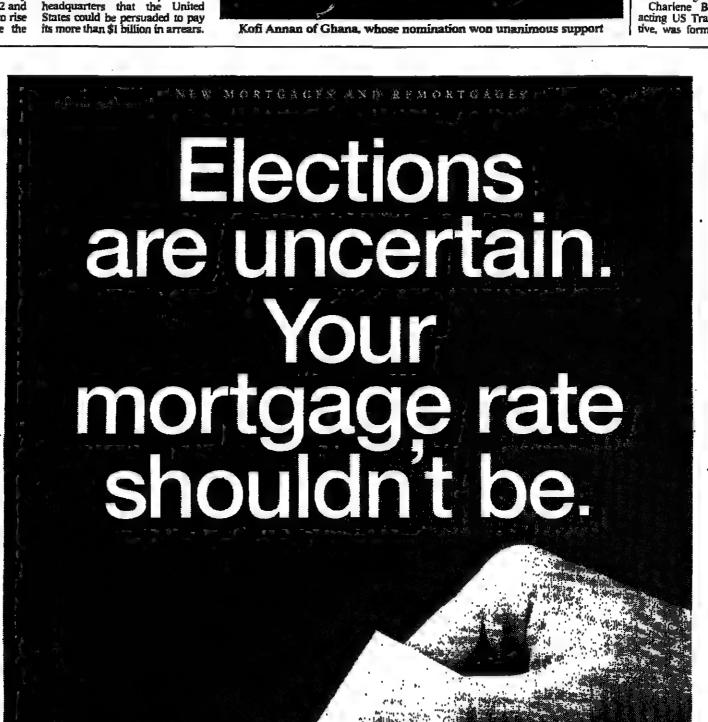
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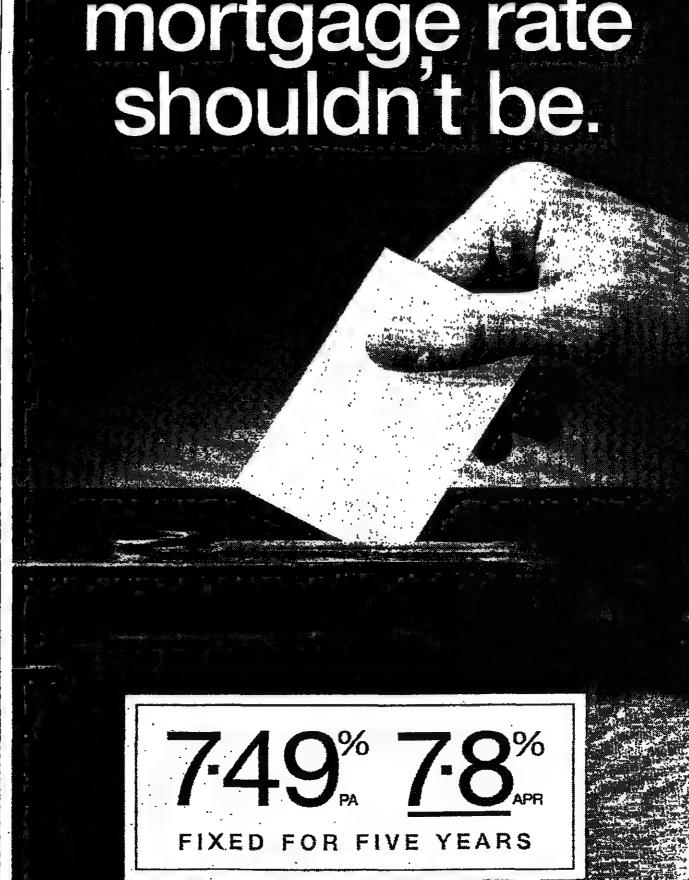
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Jaruzelski says martial law kept Russians out

GENERAL Wojciech Jaruzel-ski, the former Polish Communist leader, emerged from the shadows yesterday to de-fend his role in declaring martial law 15 years.ago. In an interview to mark the

anniversary, the general argued that he cracked down on his own country to fend off a Soviet-led invasion.

"I am still deeply convinced this decision was correct, given the internal and especially external realities of the time." said the general, who lives in a modest villa on Warsaw's Ikarus Street

Despite the grim memories of soldiers crouched around braziers and secret police harassment, Poles are beginning to agree with his version. An opinion poll conducted by the CBOS institute shows that 54 per cent of Poles now consider martial law to have been a correct decision, while 30 per cent say it was wrong.

Yet Polish historians trawling through Soviet, Polish. and East German Politburo minutes can find no convincing evidence that the Russians were preparing to invade Po-land. Would Moscow have risked a major war by marching into the territory of its neighbour and ally, they ask.

Pyotr Kostikov, responsible for the Polish papers in the Soviet Central Committee archives, has searched for convincing evidence and come up empty-handed. "If a military invasion of Poland was ever discussed in Moscow, then that should show up in our files. But as far as i can judge,

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Jaruzelski, left, that his military clampdown headed off a Soviet invasion, Roger Boyes

The majority of

Poles seem to be

coming round to

the view of General

there is not a single official or authorised document to that The recently published memoirs of Vitali Pavlov, the KGB chief in Warsaw, also borders, and from Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski, the Polish

strongly denies that Russia was interested in invading. In late October 1980, as the Russians saw that the Solidarity movement was set to come a lasting feature of Polish politics, there were some mumbled threats. At a Politburo session on

October 29, 1980, Dmitri Ustinov, the Defence Minister, went furthest, declaring: "Our Northern Group is on alert and is in a state of full combat readiness. Jerzy Holzer, a Polish histo-

rian, says he has been unable to gain access to Soviet minutes between October and December 1980. According to the memoirs of General Jaruzelski and Stanislaw Kania, the then party chief, those were the months when pressure began to mount on

writes from Bonn There is confirmation of this in the diary of Zbigniew Brzezinski, the US National Security Adviser, who talks of Soviet troops massing on the

Yet the indications are that this invasion scare was part of a Soviet bluff to put pressure on the Polish leaders and to encourage the West to withdraw its support for Solidarity. By January 22, 1981, this is aiready apparent when Mr Ustinov told the Politburo: "We have to exert continuous pressure on the Polish leadership. In March we will have manoeuvres, which we should, in my opinion, make rather intense to give the impression that we have

staff officer who was spying

for the Americans.

troops ready to go."

Every available declassified Polithuro minute follows a similar line: the point seems to have been to push the Polish regime to launch its own

this pressure was to drive FROM LEYLA LINTON General Jaruzelski close to nervous breakdown. Yuri

noted after meeting the general: "Comrade Jaruzelski repeated his request to be relieved of the post of Prime Minister. We made it plain, in a friendly way, that he should The 73-year-old-general yes-terday claimed that martial

Andropov, the Soviet leader,

law helped indirectly to bring about a peaceful handover of power later in the decade. It was arguably one of the most important steps in the collapse of Communist authority in Eastern Europe..

But Russian and Polish archives show General Jaruzelski was far from being a hero and, despite his empha sis on patriotic credentials, he was beholden to the Kremlin. "I won't pass judgment on him, let history do that," said

Lech Walesa, the former Polish President, after paying tribute to martial law victims. For the time being the shameful arithmetic of the military take-over will have to suffice: more than 13,000 Poles were interned without trial, two dozen died in clashes between striking workers and riot police, a dozen political murders are still unsolved, and 750,000 Poles emigrated.

On top of that are the many fractured lives: those Poles who were thrown out of schools and universities, who lost their professions, had their children taken away and

Belgians seek child sex victims at mine

ABOUT 50 police and investigators in the Brussels paedophile murder case yesterday began digging in two places near an abandoned minestiaft in the Jumet suburb of Charleroi.

Police blocked off surrounding roads and brought in dogs as they searched for an entrance to a tunnel which they believe Marc Dutroux. the main suspect in the abduc-tion and murder of four young girls, could have used to hide further kidnap victims or as a cache.

They did not rule out the very of more bodies and the families of children reported missing in recent years vere being kept informed.

Marcel Guissart, a spokes-

man for the investigators, said that they were following serious clues and were confident of finding a tunnel entrance It is the second time that police officers have dug in

In September, they excavated around the mineshaft when M Dutroux told them they would find "something resting there". Twice in the past when he used that expression, girls' bodies were found, but on that occasion police found nothing of

Police yesterday also searched cellars in four houses nearby to see if they contained hidden entrances connected to the mine.

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Velazquez's portrait of Pope Innocent X, back on view in a privately owned palace

Rebirth of a private museum highlights Italy's state of art

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME it down, we decided to run it as

Exhibition space has been

doubled and the Doria

Pamphilis have produced a

CD-Rom of the 600-strong

collection of paintings. They will rent out the salons, hung

with Gobelin tapestries, for

The rapid restoration - and

the dedication of a staff of only six — are being contrasted with the plight of the dilapi-

dated state-run VIIIa Borghese

gallery, which closed 13 years

ago when the ceiling col-

lapsed; most of it has still not

reopened. Many of Italy's

public collections are closed or

open only intermittently.

If Messaggero said the
Doria Pamphili collection, run
by Jonathan with his sister,
Ghesine, and her Italian hus-

band, Massimiliano Floridi.

dinner parties and concerts.

ONE of Europe's most spectacular private art collections, owned by an Anglo-Italian dynasty and housed in a vast Renaissance palace, reopens tomorrow after only a year of restoration — a remarkable record by Italian standards.

The press this week hailed: the revival of the Doria Pamphilj collection and the opening up of richly decorated salons hitherto closed to the public as proof of the vitality of Italy's handful of private museums, compared with the country's 3,500 chronically over-staffed :and underresourced state museums.

Jonathan Doria Pamphili, moving force behind the revival, was born in London and spent four years in Sotheby's Old Masters department. He said that keeping the huge palace in central Rome open to the public had been seen by the family as a "moral obligation" and for many years they had run it at a loss. "We couldn't go on like that," he said as he watched the museum's prize exhibit

Velázquez's portrait of Pope Innocent X, born Giambat-tista Pamphilj in 1574 — being

has a vibrancy which the state collections often lack. Velazquez's portrait of an irritable Innocent X is being displayed with Bernini's kinder bust. During the gallery's closure both travelled — along with other masterpieces such as Titian's Salome (also known as Judith) and Caravaggio's Rest on the Flight into Egypt—to London and other world

The Culture Ministry has contributed £400,000 to restration costs. But the postwer view that art "belongs to the . people" remains strong. Stae mistrust — and penalisation of private collectors dates back to the Grand Tour, when the papal authorities becahe alarmed at the number of works of art disappearing in aristocratic baggage. A poal, bull restricting private colections is still in force.

1.000

lk guard.

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Innocent X decreed the ollection should "never be dirided up", and a succession of British family members has helped to keep it intact. Inthe 1830s, when Stendhal was listing it as one of the worders of Rome, Mary Talbot, Countess of Shrewsbury, married Prince Filippo Andrea Loria Pamphilj. The current natriarch, Princess Orietta, married an English navai officer. Lt Commander Frank Poison, in the 1960s. To the delight of the Italians, he adopted the Doria Pamphilj name.

The family hopes the 3,000 visitors to the gallery in 1995 point of 50,000 visitor by 2000. But Jonathan Joria Pamphili said the position of private museums renains Drecarious".

unpacked from its crate and rehung. "Rather than closing **New Nato** force to take over in Bosnia

By Michael Evans DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations Security Council has agreed to a mandate for a new Nato-led military force for Bosnia-Herzegovina for the next 18 months. The troops will be authorised to take robust action to defend themselves against the threat

The mandate coincided with an announcement by the United-States that it has completed the delivery of new weap-ons for the Muslim-Croat Federation, which has transformed the previous imbal-ance of forces between the federation and the Bosnian Serbs. But the arrival of tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers has been matched by a stubborn refusal by the Serbs to reduce their heavy weapons stocks, as agreed under the Dayton accord signed in 1995.

The new 31,000-strong Stabilisation Force (Sfor) will be given its "action order" by Nato defence ministers in Brussels on Tuesday. The force will include about 5,000

British troops.

The mission will start officially on December 20, replacing the 60,000-strong, Natoled Implementation Force (Ifor). The new force is to include an offshore unit of about 5,000 US Marines who can be drafted into Bosnia in the event of an emergency.

The mandate came just in time for the German Government to secure a huge 499-93 majority in parliament yesterday to send about 3,000 troops



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Boesak

faces

charges

of fraud

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN

ALLAN BOESAK, the fallen hero of the anti-apartheid

struggle, was charged yesterday with fraud and theft of

Western donor aid of more

than £240,000. The indictment

came after a two-year investi

gation into his anti-apartheid

Prosecutors said Dr Boesak, 50, and Freddie Steenkamp,

the former bookkeeper of the

Foundation for Peace and Justice, faced nine counts of fraud and 21 of theft. The cleric

is alleged to have enriched

himself at the expense of

victims of racism with funds

from Scandinavian aid agen-

Seum

of art

ELECOM

return

Tanzania's border

Rwanda yesterday

after troops stopped them

Thousands of refugees

broke through a cordon of

stick-wielding troops to get

back to the camp. Soldiers

heat some but gave up trying to stop the flow. A

new attempt to repatriate

refugees is expected to be made today. (Reuter)

Delhi: The Kashmir state

government is offering a

reward of 1 million rupees

(£17,200) for information

about four foreigners taken

hostage last year (Christo-

pher Thomas writes). Pho-

tographs of the men, including Keith Mangan

and Paul Wells from Brit-

ain, are being distributed.

Belgian MPs

end nightmare

Brussels: The Belgian par-

liament voted yesterday to exonerate Elio Di Rupo, a

Deputy Prime Minister, of

allegations of paedophilia

(Leyla Linton writes). Mr

Di Rupo, a Socialist and

homosexual, said the vote

ended a four-week

Doubts over

kidnap victim Phnom Penh: Cambodia

said it had received no fresh information on the

fate of the kidnapped Briton Christopher Howes for more than three weeks and was no longer certain the

mine-clearance expert was

H-bomb claim

a class action lawsuit

against it by New Zealand

navy veterans who claim

they suffered high cancer rates from British H-bomb

tests in 1957 and 1958. (AP)

San Francisco: Patrols

hired to stop suicide leaps

from the Golden Gate

Bridge may have saved the

lives of 34 people during the scheme's first eight

months. (AP)

Life guards

gets backing

alive. (Reuter)

nightmare.

Reward offer

for hostages

fleeing into the bush.

Cash boosts for settlers **Rwandans** deepen fear to camps of violence Benaco Camp, Tanzania: An estimated 300,000 Rwandan refugees trekked back towards their camps

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Palestinian Authority. last night accused the rightwing Government of Binya-min Netanyahu of a declaration of war for ap-proving a multimillion-pound scheme to boost Jewish settle-ments in the occupied West Bank, land captured from the

Arabs in 1967. Under the scheme announced by the Cabinet in defiant response to Wednes-day's murder of two Jewish settlers by Palestinian extremists, the settlements on land referred to by Mr Netanyahu as "Judaea and Samaria" will revert to the status of a "national priority zone" they enjoyed before the 1993 peace

treaty with the Palestinians. In practical terms, the costly new scheme of tax and mortgage allowances for residents grants for new businesses are expected to encourage thouthe West Bank.

The repeal of the special status by the assassinated Prime Minister. Yitzhak Rabin, was seen as an essential part of his policy of making peace with Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority. Its reinstatement was followed by a pledge from the militant Islamic group Hamas to resume its campaign of suicide bombings and an appeal from the radical exiled Palestinian leader, Georges Habash, for a new

The beightened tension, which many observers fear may soon spill over into new violence, was reflected in the response from Mr Arafar's Information Ministry. This decision is a direct call for violence and a declaration of



war on the Palestinian people and its National Authority." the ministry said. "It threatens to undermine what remains of

Leaders of the 130,000 West Bank settlers welcomed the response to the murder on Wednesday of Etta Tzur and her 12-year-old son, Ephraim, but complained that it did not go far enough. "It is a Zionist answer, but not enough of a Zionist answer," said the set-Domb, who repeated an earlier demand for the construction of new settlements.

The Government's move was binerty criticised by members of the opposition Labour Party, who claimed that the clock was rapidly being turned back to the pre-peace

era. "Peace and security will not be achieved by making this area [of the West Bank] a 'national priority region'. It is simply a joke," said Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, former Housing Minister and war hero. "Talking about building new settlements and thousands of housing units is tantamount to ending the Oslo [peace]

In a revival of mass public support for Hamas, a militant crowd of 25,000 gathered in the Gaza Strip to mark the first anniversary of Israel's assassination of bomb-maker Yehia Ayash, known as "The Engineer". In Israel a maximum security alert was declared after intelligence warnings of a suicide car

cies and the American singer, Paul Simon, among others. Mr Steenkamp was charged yesterday at Cape Town magistrates' court before being released on bail. There was no immediate reaction from Dr Boesak, who has been living in San Francisco for more than a year. He has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and the ruling African National Congress, in an internal investigation, cleared its former Western Cape leader.

But that inquiry was criticised as a whitewash, and only the persistence of the donors forced the Office for Economic Offences to look into the accusations. Yesterday's charges will embarrass the ANC which has backed the charismatic Dr Boesak.

Deadline extended: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has extended its deadline for amnesty, for human rights abuses committed during the apartheid era, from today to May 10 after a lastminute surge of entries.

Hundreds arrested in hunt for Uday's 'cowardly' attackers

FROM MICHAEL THEODOUROU IN NICOSIA

HUNDREDS of Iraqis, including 200 members of an elite Republican Guard unit based near the Baghdad presidential palace, were said to have been arrested after the assassination attempt on the life of Uday, President

Saddam Hussein's brutal son. Reports said Saddam unleashed his security forces yesterday to hunt down the "treacherous cowards" who ambushed Uday, regarded as his heir apparent, on Thursday night in a Baghdad suburb.

Wafiq Samarrai, a former Iraqi intelligence chief who defected to Syria in 1994, said 500 people had been arrested overnight. "Based on my information, several armed men opened fire on Uday at the same time

as he was driving in the wealthy al-Mansur neighbourhood."

it was not clear whether the attempt on the life of Uday, a selfconfessed killer, was an act of personal revenge or politically moti-vated. He had many enemies, from rivals in the ruling Takriti clan to

powerful businessmen and families of women he had allegedly raped. But any attack on Uday is a strike

at Saddam's regime, envoys said. "It's a double blow to Saddam: first, because it took place in Baghdad where his grip on power is supposed to be undisputed; and second, because it was against the son he was apparently grooming for succession,"

a diplomat in Jordan said. Iraq's state-controlled media insistyesterday that Uday was only ghtly hurt. But the unprecedented step by the media of announcing the incident led to speculation that his condition may be far more serious or that he may even be dead.

An Iraqi exile said: "If they really wanted to show he was all right, why haven't we seen pictures of him smiling in hospital?" One witness said Uday was dragged unconscious from his bullet-riddled car with blood

Tehran 'plotted to kill Rushdie in Denmark'

FROM TOM REIGDES IN WASHINGTON

claiming that Iran made active preparations to attack Salman Rushdie when the British author received a prestigious literary award from the European Union in

The Danish Government, under intense pressure at home and abroad, finally apologised and allowed Mr Rushdie to accept the award for his latest book. The Moor's Last Sigh. A fatwa, ordering his death, was passed on Mr Rushdie by the late Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989 for allegedly defaming

the Prophet Muhammad. Revelations about the Denmark plot, reported in the Los Angeles Times yesterday, formed part of the latest batch of US intelligence on Tehran.

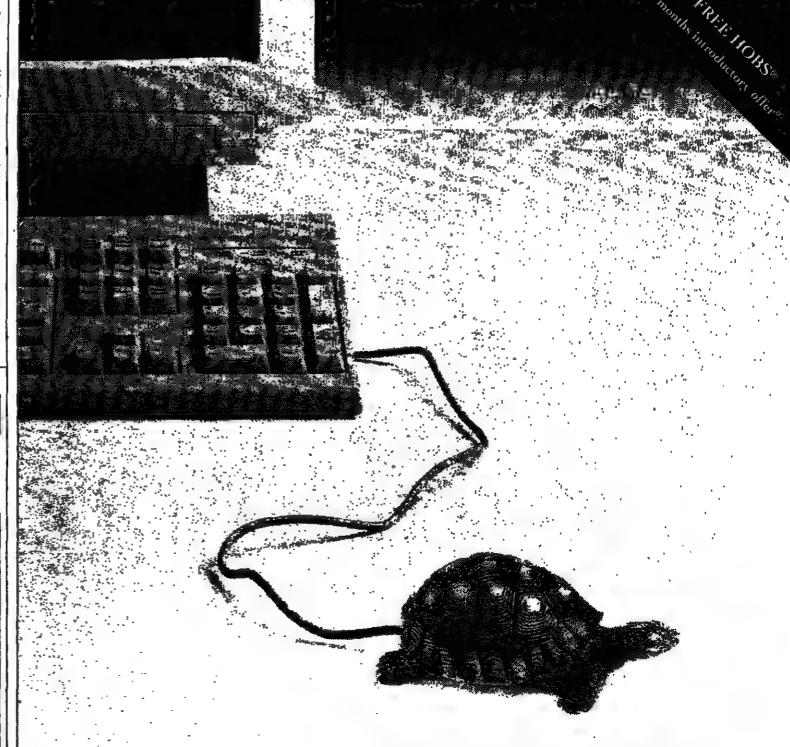
AMERICAN officials are Iran is said to be flying at least three Boeing 747 cargo jets, with weapons and humanitarian supplies, to Syria every month for shipment to Hezb-

> shipmentsis said to have begun during the spring offen-sive by the Israeli Army, when 150 mostly civilian Lebanese were killed.

> Hossein Nosrat, an Iranian official at the United Nations, denied the allegations of Tehran's involvement in arms shipments and any plot to kill Mr Rushdie

The Iranian Governmen is not going to send anybody or any group to kill anybody in other parts of the world," he said. "That includes Salman

FORTE



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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 1996

Allegations of corruption cast a shadow over mayoral family in the City of Lights

Relatives devalued

make a point of enjoying activities with all the family: the Chiracs like to eat the Juppės like

PARIS FILE by BEN **MACINTYRE**

to shop; and the family of rolling in. First it was claimed that as deputy mayor and Jean Tiberi, the Mayor of head of the capital's housing Paris, spends much of its spare time swimming against a rising tide of ugly corruption allegations. In the 18 months he has presided over the Hôtel de Ville, first M Tiberi, then his

wife and finally his son have each become the target of legal investigation, the cumulative effect of which has turned the family into a running joke and a serious political liability for the ruling Gaullist party.
When he succeeded Jac-

gues Chirac as Mayor of Paris last year, M Tiberi was billed as a party stalwart, a reliable career politician unlikely to make waves. Then

Wrongs of Bernadette

housemaid who recently won 64.5 million in the French lottery, is about to set off on a concert tour during which she will musically lambast her late mother. Mme Goeury. 60, suffered a life of torment at the hands of her sadistic

office. M Tiberi had allocated a city-owned flat to his son, Dominique, and then ordered lavish renovations at a cost of more than £200,000 to taxpayers. M Tiberi's formidable wife Xavière, it was reported had personally overseen the installation of marble flooring throughout the five-room apartment for which Dominique Tiberi paid a rent of just £800 a month, approximately a third

of the going rate.

To boot, the former deputy rector of the housing office told Eric Halphen, an investigative magistrate, that "for years" a system of fraudulent housing deals had operated

band. A devotee of classical

music and a singer, she spent

part of her fortune on record-

ing a CD with the London

Session Orchestra. Requiem

for my Mother proves that

while money may not buy love, it can purchase vengeance.

Relations, was being grilled by judicial police amid claims that he had continued to receive a salary from the state-owned airline, Air France, long after he stopped

working for the company.

M Tiberi fils strongly de-nied he had been paid a double salary and, according to Le Monde, last June the Prime Minister's office "very discreetly" repaid more than Frl.1 million (£150,000) to Air

ments were

made to the

RPR party.

Judge Hal-

ohen raided

the Mayor's

Paris home

and found documents that

cast Tiberi family values in

It appeared that Mme

Tiberi had been paid £25,000

by a regional authority for

writing a short advisory re-port that was full of mistakes and at least partly plagiarised. The fee worked

out at £700 a page. Last week Mme Tiberi and

Xavier Dugoin, the Gaullist head of the regional authority

which "employed" her, were

both placed under formal

legal investigation for misus

While his mother was pre-

paring to face charges. Domi-

nique Tiberi, the deputy chief

of staff to Roger Romani, the

Minister for Parliamentary

of public funds.

an even more dubious light.

Gaullist



Jean Tiberi and his wife, Xavière, both the target of legal investigations about corruption, are rapidly becoming a liability for the ruling Gaullist party

France for his wages and social security benefits. Dom-inique Tiberi moved out of his council flat last year, and in July the "conflict of interest" allegations against his abruptly shelved by the Paris

But the Mayor is not yet out of the woods. Earlier this

week, M Dugoin alleged that he had personally negotiated his wife's exorbitant fee for the advisory brief.
All week French newspa-

pers have been speculating on whether the Mayor will now be placed under investiof ink," Michel Bulte, a mayoral aide, said. The Xavière Tiberi case suggests the Gaulist authorities are desperate to put a lid on further corruption investigations. Prosecutors say the inquiries could open a Pandora's box of illegal funding

it seemed rather odd to store

the books in the towers and

the people in the chain mail-

odder when it emerged that

expensive extra protection

would have to be installed to prevent heat and sunlight

iamaging the books.

basement, and even

America's cultural wasteland

PARIS has an apt monument to the current state of Franco-US relations it is the vast American Culture Centre in the 12th arrondissement which is deserted, unwanted and now falling apart.

As the row continued yes-terday over whether the French Foreign Minister, Herve de Charette, had snubbed the outgoing US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, at a Nato function this week, it was reported that the centre, originally intended to disseminate American culture to the find a buyer. The building, designed by architect Franck Gehry, was closed more than a year ago with huge debts.

France, it seems, does not want American culture any more than it wants Kofi Annan, the American-backed candidate for UN Secretary-General. At loggerheads with the US over Nato reform and diplomacy in Africa and the Middle East, M de Charette has lost few opportunities to needle his US counterpart. As a parting gift, or shot, he

presented the non-French speaking Mr Christopher with five French novels.

Paris, we can safely assume, will be quite happy to see the cultural centre stand empty until it falls apart

a future Gaullist government

could not tear it down, and the

day the Socialists duly lost,

Mitterrand went to visit "his"

Supporters of the project, who tend to be devotees of the

late President, insist that the

building is a "democratic"

of whatever stamp, a very big



Lebed: shift of tactics

Lebed to prolong siege of Kremlin

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

LIKE a military commander who has switched his tactics halfway through a battle. General Aleksandr Lebed has dropped his lightning attack for control of the Kremlin and opted for a prolonged siege.

It is two months since the charismatic former paratrooper was sacked by President Yeltsin as Russia's security chief. He startled the nation when he came third in June's presidential elections and then accepted a job as National Security Adviser. Since being dismissed for "insubordina tion". General Lebed has been working behind the scenes, building up support abroad with trips to America and Europe and laying the founda-tions for a political movement to be launched later this

When it looked like Yeltsin was not going to survive his term and a succession battle was looming. Lebed was leading an open campaign for the said. "Now that Yeltsin seems to have recovered from his heart surgery. Lebed has obvi-ously decided on a longer-

term strategy."
Thomas Pickering, who recently retired as US Ambassa, dor to Moscow, said or Wednesday that Russians would tire of General Lebed's tactics. He predicted that the former paraircoper would suffer the same fate as Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the uitra-nationalist whose support has crum-

Others, including senior figures in the Kremlin, are convinced that the Afghan War veteran's political career is far from over. Apart from his dominant place in the opinion polis, where he enjoys double the popularity of his nearest rivals, many draw parallels with President Yeltsin's rise to power and his long period of isolation in the

final years of Soviet rule. One man who has not written off. General Lebed's charices is Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, who this week flirted with the idea of backing him.

Chirac opens new chapter in France's grand follies

FROM BEN MACINTYRE

ON TUESDAY President Chirac will personally inaugurate France's new national library in southeast Paris, one of the largest, costliest and most bitterly debated buildings ever put up.

The library is the brainchild of François Mitterrand, after whom the library will be named, through the gritted teeth of M Chirac, his successor, who did his level best to scupper the project from the

First mooted at a July 14 garden party in 1988, the library at Tolbiac on the Left Bank of the Seine was Mitterrand's obsession, the grandest of his grands travaux. Almost a year after his

death it will be opened to the public as a testament to the late President's literary vision - or his colossal vanity, depending on your point of Critics of the new British

Library, hugely over budget and a decade overdue, may take some solace from the history of France's national library. Formed by four L-



shaped glass and steel towers designed to look like open books, the building has cost a staggering Fr30 billion (64 billion), or six times the initial estimate, making the £500 million for the new British Library seem a bargain. Some 2,700 staff will be

required for a building with space for 1,650 readers. Five miles of delivery belts carry books on a high-tech retrieval system, and running the building will eat up a tenth of the country's annual culture

If the British Library project

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DREW LLOYD WE MASTERPRECE" Wall St Journal

THEATRES

The need for such an enormous undertaking was always open to question, and a petition by some of France's most prominent intellectuals described the design, by French architect Dominique Perault,

that decision, I would say no."

When he suspected the Socialists were going to be trounced in the 1993 election, he accelerated the construction programme to ensure that

structure, opening learning to the masses, and a tribute to But Mitterrand was an avid reader and writer and he France's love of literature. wanted, in his own words, Others see it as a folie des grandeurs on an epic scale. One of these was M Chirac, one of the biggest or the biggest and most modern library in the world". Later he who as Mayor of Paris donatslightly scaled down his aspied the 17 acres of former rail and so was born the building's now stands and then tickayed ironic nickname Le Très planning permission. When squatters took up residence there in 1991, M Bibliothèque, or TGB, a mocking echo of France's

high-speed TGV trains. Chirac, normally no friend of squatters, made a point of When asked in 1995 whether it should be named after him,. going to see them. Mitterrand gave one of his All such reservations will be forgotten next Tuesday, of most elliptical replies: "If you course, as a Very Big Building were charged with that decision and you asked me to take is, for an embattled President

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What he meant, clearly, was photo-opportunity. M Chirac will cut the ribbon, but as future generations pass by those vast legs of steel and glass they will think of François Mitterrand, which is exactly how he planned it.

THEATRES

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OPINION

The inspirational power of fruit and vegetables is demonstrated again — on the football terraces



THEATRE

Fellini's film, the musical Nine never shapes into a coherent evening

inspiration for all truly memora

reall, plays a big role in the Book of Genesis, in the Greek myth of the Judgment of Paris, and in the Snow White fairytale. Aristophanes, by contrast, found significance in the radich Any mention

cance in the radish. Any mention

veg. Or sometimes trees.

THE



OPERA

Plaudits for Placido Domingo as Covent Garden stages its Gold and



ON MONDAY

From Ragtime to showtime: Benedict Nightingale surveys the latest musicals in North America

s Shakespeare so nearly wrone if music be the love of food, hand me that stick of celery. No, readers, I don't want to lie down until my head feels better. I am referring to the bizarre events that are unfolding, like some inscrutably symbolic Polish

cally unwise by Dr Stuttaford.
The point is that at the song's

climax (as it were) the fans suddenly hurl sticks of celery omo the pitch. It is said to be a thrilling

Derived from





Silver Gala



film, at Gillingham Football Club.
The fans of this hitherto unremarkable team have taken to singing a ditty called The Celery Song, the lyries of which are fitted - with Audenesque ingenuity, I may say — to a popular terrace tune. I won't dwell on the words, except to note that the improbable activity they suggest falls somewhere between the Kama Sutra and Greengrocers' Monthly, and would doubtless be declared medi-

speciacle, worthy of Cecil B. De Mille. But unfortunately the Gil-lingham goalkeeper — clearly no connoisseur of Surrealism — has

Is it art, or is it a nice mixed salad?

objected to bombardment by a

authorities propose to search fans

for celery and other dangerous vegetables before admitting them. This is not the first time that the rich metaphorical potential of horticulture has added extra frisson to the noble game of footie. Many a dull Saturday at Manchester City was enlivened by the Giant Inflatable Banana Cult which recently gripped its supporters. Nottingham Forest fans used to have a *Pineapple Song*, honouring not the celebrated Vanbrugh folly at Castle Howard but the remarkable coiffure of one of their players. And the former England football manager Graham Turner was famously depicted as a turnip in the tabloid press after a display

of prodigious mediocrity.
All of which demonstrates what

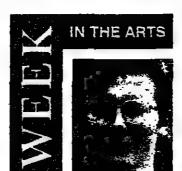
gardeners already know: that the

of this evocative vegetable in his plays is understood by scholars to be a coded reference to sexual practices that Mrs Bottomley would certainly not allow through

flying harvest festival. Now the - ble acts of creativity is not love, authorities propose to search fans death, sex or warfare. It's fruit and

radish was probably the first horticultural double-entendre forerunner of such risque musichall songs as Let's All Go Down the Strand (Flave a Banana!) and of course I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts.

her V-chip. Indeed, Aristophane



RICHARD MORRISON

Opera is bursting with horticul-tural arias. Indeed, Prokofiev's Love of Three Oranges, is entirely about a prince infatuated with a trio of Seville's juiciest. For him, if not for Ms Jeanette Winterson,

oranges really are the only fruit.
You probably have to be a metaphysical poet to declare, as George Herbert did: "Oh, that I were an orange tree!" But Han-del's opera Serse opens with the raddled Persian monarch making love to a tree. Tchaikovsky's most popular bailet was inspired by nuts. Rossini composed an orchestral suite, Les Quatres Mendiants. in praise of dried fruit. And the names of countless pop groups — from the Red Hot Chili Peppers to those new Tory activists, the Spice Girls - anest to the abiding charisma of the market garden. As W.S. Gilbert recommended to aspiring poets in Patience:

. a sentimental passion of a vegetable fashion must excite your languid spleen. An attachment à la Plato for a

bashful young potato or a not too French french bean.

And anybody who saw the splendid National Gallery exhibition of Spanish still-lifes last year will know how subtly the Old Masters could use a good mixed salad to suggest darker layers of meaning. What Veläzquez couldn't say about sex or mortality with a cabbage isn't worth saying.

ut many present-day paint-Bers also specialise in the fruit and veg business. Recently the ICA Gallery in London displayed a weird painting called Cats and Watermelons by Gabriel Orozco. To the untutored eye it looked like a lot of tins of carfood balanced on fruit. But to The Times's art critic, Richard Cork, the painting suggested how gross the endlessly repetitive abundance of supermarket produce can be". Food for thought there, then. Personally, I never push a trolley

how gross the endlessly repetitive abundance of modern art can be. Of course, fruit also offers our language a metaphor for every human condition. The lunatics among us have gone bananas, or

round Tesco now without thinking

at least a little nutty; the jeolous demonstrate sour grapes if we land a plum assignment; the corrupt are rotten apples; our bumptious offspring are pipsqueaks; and our thwarted plans turn pear-shaped.

Mind you, such metaphors can

be misunderstood. There is a story about the Italian conductor Toscanini who, while rehearsing in New York, had a flaming row with a trumpeter. "Get out!" the maestro screamed. "Nuts to you," the trumpeter snarled back. Whereupon Toscanini retorted: "It's too late to apologise." He clearly thought he had been offered some sort of ancient culinary peace-token.

Perhaps the trumpeter should have given Toscanini a burst of The Celery Song instead. With all

Too big for its boots by half

cal (book by Arthur Kopit, music and lyrics Maury Yeston, inspiration Federico Fellini) has taken 14 years to cross the Atlantic, and took most of its two-hour length to instruste itself past my resistance to what it offers, even then reaching only a short way past. Yeston's contributions are interesting, in patches; the quality of performances (14 women, one man) is high; the design infuriates.

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The distant origin of the piece is Fellini's film 8/2, where the hero, Guido Contini, is a film director with



Nine Donmar

a creative block. Women pursue him, he remembers others, fantasises being coddled by them all, and his world collapses in upon him. The film won prizes back in 1961 and doesn't look so good today, but the idea remains bracingly original and to use it as the basis for a musical called for strong nerves.

Unfortunately, and despite the shimmering elegance of the women, Guido's predicament remains uninvolving for too long. His wife (Susannah Fellows) sings about him in My Husband Makes Movies, where the middle section of sad recollection is wistfully orchestrated. The music pastiches various past styles; for the Grand Canal scene the stage fills with water. Clonk clonk go the women's heels as they walk along the corridors behind the audience, or clank clank on the metal walkway round the balcony. We have to accept that Guido makes films



Sara Kestelman (centre) in a scene from Nine, based on Fellini's classic film, 84

because his wife, producer, paparazzi and critics tell him so, but there is none of the paraphernalia of film-making to give their statements body. Larry Lamb's Guido, physi-

cally more a Truffaut than a Fellini (or a Mastroianni). develops an angry vigour as the show proceeds, and a snarl under the flerce top-lighting that emphasises his last terror. But the show equips him with too little to arouse our concern. So he is lumbered with a Catholic childhood, a suicidal mistress, a lesbian producer (Sara Kestelman)? Life can be tough. From heaven his mother (Dilys Laye) says "Shape up." Nine is about a man who finds this impossible to do.

and the show, inevitably made up of fragments, has not shaped itself either. . Now to the design, by Anthony Ward. To suggest

mous mirror across the back of the stage, but if you sit in the last two rows of the side stalls you'll see little of what's reflected in it or visible through it. figments, aren't they? - but

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Dream (reviewed yesterday) the Theseus is played by Robert Swann, and not John Franklyn-Robbins, who plays Egeus

Master tenor of the House

THE gold celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the first home-grown production at the Royal Opera after the war, Purcell's The Fairy Queen. The silver was part of the ongoing tributes to Placido Domingo, who made his debut here 25 years ago this month. The silver won,

Only at the beginning of each half of the evening was there acknowledgement of the house's reopening. Asher Fisch, drafted in from Vienna as a late replacement for the indisposed Edward Downes. began with the Carmen prelude to Act 1. This was the first opera given by the new com-pany. Part two began with the Act IV prelude to The Fairy Queen, There were glimpses of the original sets, Edward Burra's for Bizet and Michael Ayrton's for Purcell. The singing might have been a bit shaky 50 years ago, but some-

one knew how to choose top designers. Apart from that it was Domingo all the way. When, at the close he was presented with Covent Garden's long

it's intensely annoying, and director David Leveaux

should have sent Ward back to

the drawing board.

Gold and Silver Gala Covent Garden/BBC 2

OPERA

silver, he apologised for the cold which has been sweeping through the cast of the current Tosca. There was no need. Domingo's voice was still in tremendous shape: warm, flexible, featherlight when needed. And, in his 168th appearance at the house, he

was out to show a range of repertory no other living tenor has equalled. Rather saucily he included a number of roles now associated with Roberto Alagna who, with Angela Gheorghiu, was among the stars onstage. There was Nemorino, where he was joined in the Act I duet from Elisir by the witty Leontina Vaduva. Earlier she had shown herself as a most delectable Donizettian in

Norina's opening aria from

Don Pasquale. Domingo also

chose the Cherry Duet from

service medal, appropriately L'amico Fritz, a recent

piece, with Veronica Villaroel as his not very successful partner. And there was Don Carlos, possibly Alagna's best role to date. But Domingo's most heartfelt singing was reserved for

Alagna/Gheorghiu party

Rodrigue's prayer from Mas-senet's La Cid, an opera never seen at Covent Garden either before the war or after. Alagna appeared unfazed and replied with another rar-

ity, Rachel, quand du Sei-gneur from Halévy's La Juive. He showed himself a José in the making when he was joined by Gheorghiu in Parlemoi de ma mère from Carmen. Both, though, opted for a folk song in the second half. Romanian for her and Neapolitan for him, which let the tone down a bit.

Domingo took up the baton for Lehar's Gold and Silver Waltz --- what else? - and Susan Graham, one of the evening's great successes, as Orlofsky led the company in praise to King Champagne. courtesy of Fledermaus.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 1996

Philip Howard



The case of the red-handed leak

Watson." Sherlock Holmes clad in his dressing gown was bent over a photocopier that had been installed in his sitting-room at 221B Baker Street, "To replace the old cliché about a sieve, today we have to speak of someone being as leaky as a table chez Nico, or, I sometimes fear, as

leaky as a Cabinet meeting."

This was a dull day towards the middle of December 1996. My practice is seldom absorbing at this time of year. So I had called on my old friend to see what new game he had afoot. And for a while I watched Holmes while he fiddled over the fax parameters and then, instructed by a message blinked in lights, added toner from a glass pipette. All other men are specialists, but Holmes's specialism is omniscience. Although he is now approaching his 150th birthday, he seems as adept with the Internet and e-mail as he used to be at the analysis of tobacco ash

and diagnosis of obscure poisons.
Having completed his fiddling, Holmes pressed the one-touch speed-dial button, and the machine began to shake and errit peals of bells and booms of muffled gongs. Holmes sank back into the chaise-longue, filled his pipe with shag from the toe end of the Persian slipper from General Trading, and fixed me with his quizzical look. "What do you know of leaks, Watson?" he asked through a miasma of smoke.

"I know that the systematic leaking of official documents has become endemic in the Civil Service" I replied, warmly. "I know that this constant stream of leaks pollutes the body politic and betrays the professional confidentiality of Whitehall. Why only yesterday Michael H--...

"Hush, Watson," cried my friend, placing his forefinger on his thin lips. In this new world of bugs, even Mrs Hudson's familiar walls may have microchippy ears. Let us put any electronic buggers off the scent by referring to the gentleman you were about to name as Tarzan'. As you are aware, he is among the stars in the political firmament. and retains hopes of becoming Prime Minister. This new case has come directly from him. He has asked me to find out who was responsible for the 94 leaks from secret Cabinet papers in the past month alone."

"Holmes." I cried, "This task must be beyond even your powers. In your previous cases of purioined documents, such as The Naval Treaty and The Three Students, at least you had clues of handwriting and other evidence to work on. But these electronic systems of copying and transmission have

recisely," said Holmes. "You have an uncanny knack, my dear Watson, of hitting the bull's-eye without even seeing the target. You look at everything from the point of view of a story instead of a scientific exercise. Now whom do your lunchtime companions at the Garrick — by the way, I deduce that you lunched on grouse and treacle tart today — whom do you sus-pect of perpetrating these continual leaks?"

"Ministers accuse the Opposition," 1 replied. "The Opposition blames the Government. Both suspect the Civil Service. And all blame the gentlemen of the press."

"And I have just demonstrated that all of them are wrong," cried Holmes, a smile of triumph lighting up his austere features. "Observe." And he tugged me over to the photocooler, which was now blinking an array of messages such as "Reload with A3".

"None of the gentleman blamed for leaking by your bad boys' table at the Garrick is capable of handling such sophisticated electronic machinery. If, as I have just demonstrated, even I cannot manage them. how could they? They are used to having such tasks performed for them by messenger boys. They are like children with the new technology. But conversely their children find it child's play, as just now you inadvertently remarked. Since no children are employed at the Treasury, but only middle-aged suits, their machines must be leaking spontaneously through the Internet and printing out on the machine of our old friend. Mr Horace Harker of the central Press Syndicate. How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however im-

probable, must be the truth?"
"Wonderful!" I ejaculated. "Fax," said

The Prince of Wales explains how the Muslim critique of materialism helped him to rediscover the sacred

start from the belief that Islamic civilisation at its best, like many of the religions of the East — Judaism. Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism has an important message for the West in the way it has retained an integrated and integral view of the sanctity of the world around us. I feel that we in the West could be helped to rediscover the roots of our own understanding by an appreciation of the Islamic tradition's deep respect for the timeless traditions of the natural order.

I believe that process could help in the task of bringing our two faiths closer together. It could also help us in the West to rethink, and for the better, our practical stewardship of man and his environment - in fields such as healthcare, the natural environment and agriculture, as well as in architecture and urban planning.

Modern materialism is unbalanced and increasingly damaging in its long-term consequences. Yet nearly all the great religions of the world have held an integral view of the sanctity of the world. The Christian message with, for example, its deeply mystical and symbolic doctrine of the Incarnation, has been traditionally a message of the unity of the worlds of spirit and matter, and of God's manifestation in this world and in

But during the past three centuries, in the Western world at least, a dangerous division has occurred in the way we perceive the world around us. Science has tried to assume a monopoly - even a tyranny - over our under-

Islamic spirituality and the decline of the West

nature that is ours". Science has attempted to take over the natural world from God; it has fragmented the cosmos and relegated the sacred to a separate and secondary compartment of our understanding, divorced from practical, day to day existence.

We are only now beginning to gauge the disastrous results. We in the Western world seem to have lost a sense of the wholeness of our environment, and of our immense and inalienable responsibility to the whole of creation. This has led to an increasing failure to appreciate or understand tradition and the wisdom of our forebears, accumulated over the centuries. Indeed, tradition is positively discriminated against - as if it were some socially unacceptable disease. In my view, a more holistic approach

is needed now. Science has done the inestimable service of showing us a world much more complex than we ever imagined. But in its modern, materialist, one-dimensional form, it cannot explain everything. God is not merely the ultimate Newtonian mathematician

standing. Religion and science have or the mechanistic clockmaker. As become separated, so that now, as Wordsworth said, "Little we see in increasingly separated from ethical." science and technology have become increasingly separated from ethical moral and sacred considerations, so the implications of such a separation have become more sombre and horrifying - as we see in genetic manipulation or in the consequences of the kind of scientific arrogance so blatant in the scandal of BSE.

I have always felt that tradition is not a man-made element in our lives, but a God-given intuition of natural rhythms, of the fundamental harmony that emerges from the union of the paradoxical opposites that exist in every aspect of nature. Tradition reflects the timeless order of the cosmos, and anchors us into an awareness of the great mysteries of the universe, so that, as Blake put it, we can see the whole universe in an atom and eternity in a moment. That is why I believe Man is so much more than just a biological phenomenon resting on what we now seem to define as "the bottom line" of the great balance sheet of life, according to which art and culture are seen increasingly as

This view is quite contrary, for

craftsman or artist, who is never concerned with display for its own sake, nor with progressing ever forward in his own ingenuity, but is content to submit a man's craft to God. That outlook reflects, I believe, the memorable passage in the Koran, "whithersoever you turn there is the face of God and God is all-embracing, all knowing. While appre-ciating that this essential innocence has been destroyed, and destroyed every-where. I nevertheless believe that the survival of civilised values, as we have inherited them from our ancestors, depends on the corresponding survival in our hearts of that profound sense of the sacred and the spiritual.

raditional religions, with their integral view of the universe, can help us to rediscover the importance of the integration of the secular and the sacred. The danger of ignoring this essential aspect of our existence is not just spiritual or intellectual. It also lies at the heart of that great divide between the Islamic and Western worlds over the place of materialism in our lives. In those instances where Islam

chooses to reject Western materialism, this is not, in my view, a political affectation or the result of envy or a sense of inferiority. Quite the opposite. And the danger that the gulf between the worlds of Islam and the other Eastern religions on the one hand and the West on the other will grow ever wider and more unbridgeable is real, unless we can explore together practical ways of integrating the sacred and the secular in both our cultures in order to provide a true inspiration for the next

Islamic culture in its traditional form has striven to preserve this integrated, spiritual view of the world in a way we have not seen fit to do in recent generations in the West. There is much we can learn from that Islamic world view in this respect.

There are many ways in which mutual understanding and appreciation can be built. Perhaps, for instance, we could begin by having more Muslim tea-chers in British schools, or by encouraging exchanges of teachers. Everywhere in the world people want to learn English. But in the West, in turn, we need to be taught by Islamic teachers how to learn with our hearts, as well as our heads. The approaching millenni-um may be the ideal catalyst for helping to explore and stimulate these links, and I hope we shall not ignore the opportunity this gives us to rediscover the spiritual underpinning of our entire existence.

This is an earact from the Prince's speech vesterday at Wilton Park.

These damages must be wrong

In our culture of compensation, real men

sue. Have we forgotten how to forgive?

t has been a bad week for forgiveness. On a Sunday the lawyer recites, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." To err is human, to forgive divine. But by Monday that is past. By Monday forgiveness is for wimps. Real men sue.

Not a day passes without news of the arrival in another corner of British life of those modern equestrians of the Apocalypse, litigation, compensation and pu-nitive damages. In the past week I recorded the following. A killer and the widow of his victim together sue the hospital that released him. The killer seeks £50,000 for the

harm to his psychological health" caused by his killing, and is legally aided to do so. The widow, Jayne Zito, sues for £100,000. The hospital staff, she says, "have avoided responsibility and it's about time they paid for it".

On this basis every reoffending prisoner and his victim might have a claim against the prison that released him. There opened before the trial judge, Richard Mawrey, QC, a horizon of unimaginable riches. He duly cried Amen and set loose the dogs of law.

At the same time, the Court of Appeal reserved judgment on an award of £220,000 in "punitive damages" to a man who had been held in an armlock during arrest by a Metropolitan police-man. Damages of £200,000 were awarded for the stress of a relative of a Hillsborough victim, after 14 policemen at the ground had also won El.2 million for stress. A policewoman won £19,000 for enduring "racial taunts".

Filing into the trough, the Law Commission decreed that car drivers should pay the National Health Service to treat those they injure in a crash. European transport ministers decided to abolish the statute of limitation on damages that can be sought from airlines. They added that, even if an airline was not to blame for an accident, passengers should be given £80,000 (rather than the current £10,000) in compensation. The Times reported that actions for damages were being filed in America against makers of violent films by victims of putative copycat crimes. They were being recommended in

This is just one week's haul. I have a bulging file on this unstoppable lunacy. We assert a legal right to mental and physical wellbeing. Should anyone dis-

turb our wellbeing, we sue. Should anyone harm us, distress or disappoint us, we sue. Should anything disturb the norms of bourgeois existence, someone must be blamed and sued. Nobody dare apologise. Nobody says sorry. Nobody forgives. Forgiveness pays no bills. It

wins no lottery.

This litigation, as counsel for the Metropolitan Police protested last week, has gone far beyond compensation for financial loss. It has even gone beyond that ever-widening area of tort, compen-sation for physical and mental anguish where no money has been lost. It has charged into a realm from which, until

the start of this decade, English law was traditionally excluded, that of awarding "exemppunitive) lary" (or punitive) damages in personal injury cases. This was customarily restricted to libel cases, where turies could decide on awards as in America. The result is a casino.

Now judges in civil cases are using the law of negligence as a mechanism for punishing faulty public and private ser-vices. The old tariff of awards for nonpecuniary loss, such as £7,500 for family pereavement, is being torn up. A court has given away £30,000 to a man for being called "an Irish prat". They awarded £200,000 for the indignity of an armlock. The game knows no bounds. We are on our way to American million-dollar suits for being screwed up by an analyst or scalded with hot coffee.

For many a professional, a suit for such damages means one of two things. He may be crippled with a punishment wholly disproportionate to his negligence, or he must insure. Some negligence lawyers, such as Rodger Pannone, want to ban negligence insurance, so bankrupting almost any professional who is sued and loses. Yet where insurance pays, the cost is dispersed among other premium payers. This dilutes the punishment. Indeed the real punishment is borne not by the negligent but by those who pay premiums and do not claim.

Punitive damages are a lottery where-by a handful of victims benefit hugely. over and above any compensation for their injuries. Not only is the Exchequer deprived of what is in reality a fine, but in the case of public bodies the Exchequer often has to pay the claim. It is obscene: a medieval general flogging the innocent to deter the guilty. Once detach "damages" from any quantifiable



Jayne Zito, who is suing the hospital that released her husband's killer

loss, add in judicial punishment, and the sky's the limit. In America, what is now called tort abuse is rolling on its merry way, thanks to publicity-seeking judges and Robin Hood juries, serviced by contingency-fee lawyers. The result has been soaring insurance costs and wide-Recently, the Court of Appeal has sought to bring libel damages down into line with personal personal injury claims. It was ludicrous that a court would award a man a million pounds for a slur on his name but only £7,500 for the loss of his wife. The Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, is believed to be eager for similar order to the booming business of punitive damages other than

Museum of Modern Art, Jubal

Brown, a Canadian, rumbled gent-

ly then erupted. He had prepared for his art vandalism by eating nothing but blue cake icing, blue

jelly and blueberry yoghurt for

"Primary Colors Barfer", as he is

known to New York police, con-

fessed that he had already vomited

in red on a Raoul Dufy in an On-

tario gallery and had been plan-

ning to vomit in yellow on another

unnamed piece. He had given his

escapade the title Responding to

Latest project from the National

Children's Wear Association is a

consumer magazine that monitors

the clothing and eating habits of children up to their early teens. Its

After he was apprehended, the

defamation. Perhaps I can help with this. They should be barned. It is not for civil courts to supplant professional regulators by imposing what amount to criminal punishments. If regulators are not up to their job, that is for Parliament to cure (a moot point in the case of the law and the press).

I would go deeper. The rampant advance of punitive damages rots the trust that a client places in the advice of a professional, and rots the integrity the professional offers in return. It makes veryone risk-averse and defensive. Teachers, architects, doctors, policemen. even lawyers can make mistakes, mistakes that may even cause harm. Where there is gross negligence and the harm is quantifiable, compensation is reasonable. Where the harm is grief or a sense of loss, I cannot see what purpose 4 served by expressing it financially.

There are other forms of redress. including restitution, sincere apology or the disciplining of those guilty of fault. Time was when a hospital or a police station might sorry meant admitting a wrong, explaining how it happened and asking to be forgiven. Such exchanges reinforce trust. Those who admit their mistakes deserve confidence more than those who

refuse and go to court.

In handing down judgment in the Hillsborough case, the judge made a significant comment. He admitted that "there is nothing I can really do" to compensate families who had lost members in the disaster. He then swept aside the normal bereavement tariff and levied a hefty bill of £200,000 on the Yorkshire ratepayers. As if wanting to seem personally generous, he hoped this would "bring them all, if not peace of mind, a least a lowering of the anxiety and hurt they feel". This is a depressing comment on the regenerative power of families and communities. As for purishing the Sheffield police, retribution enough has been visited on them. Judges are now behaving as if the police personally organised the tragedy.

Such judgments imply that there is no place at law for any concept of accidence or Act of God. Go to law and the law will find someone to blame. Only money mends. Such largesse, and the ever growing expectation of largesse, weakens an essential bond of a community. the ability to resolve its conflicts and overcome its accidents without recourse to law. It poisons the courtesies and disciplines that hold citizens together. Do not shake hands and make up, it says. Come to the bountiful arms of the law and get rich. Punitive damage overlays the social round of error, explanation, apology and forgiveness with greed, a greed that obliterates them all. It must be wrong.

High notes

the Royal Opera House on Thursday night, with everyone from stagehands to the Prince of Wales making sure a mere bomb alert did not ruin its biggest evening of the

It was the 50th birthday of the Royal Opera's first performance, the 25th anniversary of star turn Placido Domingo's Covent Garden debut, and the launch of the Opera House's mammoth £100 million appeal. Tickets were going for E1,000, live broadcasts on the BBC were set up and kick off was planned for 7pm. Then an unat-

tended camera bag was found.
The building was closed off and cleared, divas in mid-gargle were forced to evacuate and half of the orchestra, stuck in the resultant



Prince Charles: You'll never guess how I got here

traffic, had to abandon their transport and hot foot it down the Strand in their tails, arriving just as the oboe began tuning up. One poor BBC transmission man stood shivering in Floral Street, headphones on, a cable trailing behind him. but

with no music to transmit, The Prince of Wales, guest of honour and a brick in such situations, spotted the chaos up ahead. Despite having made it only as far as Trafalgar Square from St James's Palace, he hopped out of his car and walked the remaining ten minutes to Covent Garden. Bottoms finally hit seats at 8pm.

 News of next year's handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese does not appear to have reached HM Treasury. According to the department's new forward planner, the people of Hong Kong are to have a public holiday in June 1998 to celebrate the Queen's birthday.

Smashed

CANARY WHARF in East London was a place best avoided on Wednesday night as the photographers of the Daily Mirror went on the rampage. They were holding their Christmas party in Davy's wine bar when one of their number. a heavily moustached bruiser called



of the waiters and let fly with a sidewinder which broke the man's nose. As the police were called, the waiter laid into Moore, who is now known round the office as the Elephant man on account of his severely battered features.

Towards the end of the evening. Kent Gavin, royal photographer and a favourite of Diana, Princess of Wales, was spotted asleep on a train station bench, kissing his mobile phone. Good to see yesterday's Mirror splash, exposing the drunk-en antics of the EastEnders crew during their own Christmas fling.

• Performers' pre-show foibles are raked over in next month's BBC Music magazine. Vladimir Horowitz, planist, liked to have all the windows of his hotel blacked out and regular helpings of Dover sole. Nigel Kennedy prefers a modest Mike Moore, took objection to one pot of tea. Naturally enough,

Luciano Pavarotti has the grandest suspicion. He likes to find a bent rusty nail on the floorboards before taking the stage. Resourceful stagehands have been known to plant one to save time.

Paint job

NEVER the easiest works of art to comprehend, one of Piet Mondrian's linear pieces elicited a surprisingly violent reaction from one art student the other day. He threw up on it in disgust. Strolling up to Mondrian's Composition in Red White and Blue, in New York's



Moon dust

title? Sulk.

AMERICA'S ANSWER to Terry Major-Ball has died, aged 88, Neil "Moon" Reagan, Ronald's only sibling, was three years older than Ronald and was always the big roistering one against his more reserved brother. Amid some lowrent competition - Billy Carter, drunk, Roger Clinton, reformed drug addict - Moon was a model

presidential brother.



Reagan: conservative

He was named Moon while on his high school football team after Moon Mullins, a cartoon character. A successful radio and advertis ing director, he was also a lifelong conservative and sometimes dis missive of what he perceived as his brother's rather soft politics.

At his brother's first presidential inauguration ball, Moon had terrible trouble getting in. "Look, I'm the President's brother," he said to a security guard. "Yeah right," he was told. "You're the tenth guy to try that one."



INSTABILITY AHEAD

France has again prevailed over Germany

Yesterday's apparent agreement on a stability pact for the future European Monetary Union was hailed as a famous victory by European leaders gathered at Dublin. Perhaps it was, although it is hard to see how France and Germany could both have been as satisfied as they claimed. Officials representing the two nations remained at loggerheads about the most important details of the pact until the very last moment. Indeed, within minutes of announcing that a deal had been struck, the French and German ministers in Dublin were presenting diametrically opposed interpretations.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, declared that the pact had achieved his objective of making the euro a "hard" and a "credible" currency by enforcing "quasiautomatic fines on countries which breached the budget limits in the Maastricht treaty. Meanwhile, in another room of Dublin Castle, President Chirac's spokeswoman was saying that France had "won agreement on all the main points". In particular, she said, the accord left the decision on whether or not to levy fines to the discretion of ministers, as France had always demanded. This was a striking divergence, even by European standards.

Looking at the texts actually agreed at Dublin, the truth seems to be closer to the French version. Countries running an 'excessive deficit" will be completely exempt from sanctions if they are suffering from a deep recession. More importantly, there is a provision which allows countries not suffering from a deep recession to argue that their deficits are "nevertheless exceptional". Germany was determined to narrow down these "exceptional" circumstances in a legally-binding text and in this central objective it failed. In practice, therefore, the decision on when and whether to levy fines will remain in the hands of ministers - as. demanded not only by France, but also by Britain, and every other European country apart from Germany and Holland.

The overriding of German insistence on automatic fines is welcome, although the very principle of levying fines, not to mention their astronomical levels, should remain unacceptable to those who value national economic sovereignty. But the

tortuous process of reaching this agreement offers even more important insights than the precise details agreed. It foreshadows the clashes of national interest that will dominate monetary policy in the Tower of Babel at the new European Central Bank. It also illustrates the way that Helmut Kohl has lost control of the EMU process.

Going right back to the Maastricht treaty itself, Herr Kohl has repeatedly drawn lines in the sand and then been pushed beyond them. Herr Kohl wanted greater powers for the European Parliament as a quid pro quo for EMU. He failed when this question was shuffled off the European agenda. Herr Kohl said there should be no "arbitrary" deadlines for EMU. He failed when President Mitterrand wrote the 1999 deadline into the Maastricht treaty. Herr Kohl wanted clear and automatic fines. Now he has also failed on this score. And looking toward the future. Herr Kohl has insisted that the Maastricht convergence criteria should be strictly observed. Judging by the growing confidence about membership, not only in France, but also in Italy and Spain, he will also fail in this respect.

In a sense, Germany's repeated failure to impose its will on the rest of Europe, even in the monetary field in which it has so long been dominant, might be considered good news. The idea that single currency will tame Germany's monetary power is indeed the main argument used by the French for their dogged persistence with the EMU project. The German public, however, does not yet realise how many compromises Herr Kohl has made; the Chancellor has certainly not been honest with his voters about how much of Germany's monetary power he is

Looking beyond the bureaucratic battles and the power-politics of summit deals, it is hard to believe that a single currency based on a fundamental deception of the German people and the financial markets could bring either prosperity or stability to Europe. With every new "breakthrough" in the EMU process, it becomes clearer why Britain should not only stand aside from the single currency, but also attempt to dissuade, or prevent, its neighbours from forging ahead with this folly.

PUT UP OR TOP UP

The LSE is right to consider new funding arrangements

There is one education policy on which elsewhere. That view is shared by policy-Labour and Conservative have long stood makers of all persuasions. The enormous shoulder to shoulder: opposition to plans for. "top up" fees in British universities. Whenever the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals has edged in this direction, it has been rebuffed. The London School of Economics, which has long enjoyed a reputation for radicalism, is now to be. congratulated for a much needed challenge to this consensus.

After three years of often anguished: deliberation, a clear majority of the Court of Governors has backed the principle that, from 1998, the LSE will charge an extra levy to home students. This change displays a sense of realism both about the particular needs of this institution and about the probable trend in the funding of all higher education. It still remains contingent on no new arrangements emerging from the current review by Sir Ron Dearing or from innovation by Tony Blair. But opponents of "top-up" among the LSE's hierarchy hold out little hope. According to Leslie Hannah, the acting director of the school, "everything suggests tax payers are not willing to pay for high quality education."

That quotation is of course in the familiar language of the university establishment. Even if an incoming Labour administration were committed to a substantial boost in expenditure, education for the over-18s has a much weaker claim on the nation's needs than either nursery or secondary schools. For two decades after the Anderson and Robbin's reports of the 1960s, higher education received generous support, but at a substantial cost in missed opportunities expansion of student numbers since 1979 has been achieved largely by stretching resources. Universities cannot expect forever to deal with the intake levels of the 1990s on the financial arrangements of the 1960s.

There may be no single solution to this dilemma, Indeed, considering the vast range of higher education in Britain today, it would be odd if there were one. The "top-up" fee is an option worth testing and the LSE is a particularly appropriate pioneer. It has long been a place of international excellence in the social sciences but has been restricted by a core income much smaller than that enjoyed courtesy of endowments in Oxford and Cambridge. Its site, though charming, is cramped. Under its dynamic former director. John Ashworth, it sought numerour solutions, including the sadly unsuccessful attempt to acquire the old GLC headquarters at County Hall.

The school should certainly have the reputation to attract high quality home students despite the supplementary charge. It already has a large percentage of overseas students who are quite willing to pay more than their British counterparts. Only by such experimentation can the financing of our universities develop. The academic body has put much thought into protecting potential applicants from poorer backgrounds. Talk of "privatisation" is nonsense By its brave decision, the LSE has embarked on a course which may be its own salvation as a leading research and teaching centre. It may also prove to be of exceptional value to 'higher education elsewhere.

FALKLANDS FEVER

Prospectors and Treasury officials eye the South Atlantic

Every country, like every family, has a wishlist of projects it would undertake were it to become rich. Oil has turned more countries from rags to riches than any copper seam, diamond mine or gold rush; and it seems set to do so again. If seismic exploration is a reliable indicator, one of the world's most distant and sparsely populated territories is set to become a nation of multi-millionaires. The Falkland Islands could, in a few years, be very rich - a prospect which for the 2,400 inhabitants is not universally welcome.

Money usually starts quarrels. Not only the islanders are waiting to see what the seas will yield: the British Treasury is casting eager eyes on any oil income. For if the companies exploring the tranches, licensed ikin October, find oil in commercially viable amounts, the money would pay for more luxuries than any of the sturdy folk who emigrated to the windswept colony could ever have imagined. Already the islands have been transformed since the 1982 invasion by a £20 million annual income from fishing licences, and with a new hospital, school, swimming pool, sports hall, roads, air links, satellite phones and a computer for almost every inhabitant, the

and the second s

computer-literate and well-travelled society. Now new vast wealth hoves into view. Should it share it with new immigrants or with the mother country?

Britain has no doubt that the Falklands owe this country a lot, and can now well repay the debt. Once the Treasury sees a runaway gusher, its interest cannot be capped. A direct levy could provoke a new Boston tea party. But no Falklander is an islander entire of himself. all, uniquely among the scattered remnants of the colonies, are British citizens. And citizens have obligations as well as rights - the greatest of which is to pay their taxes according to their means.

Already the islanders are offering to support the 2,000-strong British garrison, although they refuse to commit themselves to a figure until they know what they may be earning. That is only a start: how about a sizeable contribution to the rest of the Navy. or to Britain's social services or even, as thanks for British lives sacrificed, to the nation's charities and good works? Oil exploration is indeed a lottery, and the faraway Falklands may be a lucky winner. But like all winners, there will be no respite Falklands are well on the way to being a from those knocking at the door.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

suffering drivers

From the Director General of the Chartered Institute of Transport

Sir, Tuesday's traffic gridlock was a serious incident that naturally received comment in your columns (report and leading article, December 12): but with official forecasts of traffic levels doubling over the next 25 years we may soon come to accept as nor-mal such conditions which will ser-iously weaken our economy, drive investment into other countries in Europe, and give rise to costly problems of health and pollution.

The Government showed in its Green Paper, Transport — the Way Forward freport and leading article. April 26), that it now recognises the severity of the problem. What it did not indicate was any commitment to a comprehensive solution. Very real gains have been made in the management and marketing of London public transport systems but investment has fallen far behind what is needed to keep pace with increasing demand. The latest Budget, in reducing the support funding for London Transport, suggested that government has no commitment to dealing with this.

As we showed in our recent report, Better Public Transport for Cities, major investment in quality public transport is essential if we are to solve these horrendous urban problems. But the Government must initiate a city-wide strategy which includes sticks as well as carrots, and work to generate public understanding of its importance nationally. Transport managers cannot achieve this satisfactorily on their own — but we will willingly support a government lead.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD P. BOTWOOD, Director General, The Chartered Institute of Transport, UK, 80 Portland Place, WI. December 12.

From Mr David Robinson Sir, My drive home around the South Circular last night was like a dream; almost no traffic. It was only this morning that I realised it was no

Yours faithfully. DAVID ROBINSON, 15 Sefton Street, Putney, SW15. December 11.

dream, but a silver lining.

Road safety

From Mr J: M. Hocking

Sir, I read with great interest your Steering Column (Car 96, December 7) and completely agree with John Nichol, ex-Tornsdo pilot, that there should be TV commercials for safer

Highways Agency staff, together with all those involved in the daily running and maintenance of the trunk and motorway network, have tried without success to get the Department of Transport to invest in safety commercials. We have been turned down on the grounds that such commercials would not give a good rate of return compared with say. drink-driving commercials.

It is of particular concern that innovative traffic management measures such as mobile lane closures are not fully understood by the public, and that this causes accidents. In order to make the safest and most effective use of such measures, and thereby avoid having to cone off large sections of road, some education of the motoring public is essential.

Yours faithfully, J. M. HOCKING (Road engineer, Kent County Council Highways Department), 3 Wilson Close, Maidstone, Kent. December 11.

Highway to heaven

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, The highway code for peace on the roads offered by the Christian Road Safety Association (report. December is a welcome antidote to road rage. Sceptics might note that there is a double blessing when forgiveness is extended to a reckless overtaker and your prayer for his continuing sur-vival follows his headlong progress.

Firstly, we have the Sermon on the Mount, which might be summarised in part as blessed are you when you react peaceably to obstreperous and truculent people who incommode you. Secondly, Romans xii, 20 repeats with approval the words of Proverbs

xxv, 22; if you are kind to your enemy thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head", whilst retaining the halo on yours. O what transport of delight ... Yours faithfully, but imperfectly,

N. R. MacNICOL, 9 Church Lane, Greetham, Rutland. December 12.

Albright's appointment From Mr Richard Connaughton

Sir, Apropos the Reverend Margaret L. Dodds's letter today regarding Madeleine Albright's appointment as the first female US Secretary of State, it is not at all unreasonable to review in apparently sexist language what appears to be a sexist appointment.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD CONNAUGHTON. Wallhayes, Nettlecombe, Bridport, Dorset. December 13.

Jam every day for Value to the nation of literary and historical archives

From the Chairman of the British Records Association

Sir. To Libby Purves ("Books before archives", December 10), literary research is of less value than cataloguing beermats: I cannot agree. It is in fact sad that papers of British lit-erary and historical figures cannot always be kept in this country - sad. but not deplorable if, as at the University of Texas, they are well looked

What is deplorable is the sale, whether for export or not, of little bits of archives that command public atten-tion and high prices: the first draft of a well-known work, the half-dozen letters from some national figure. Much of the informative value of anyone's papers - poet, statesman, financier, whoever - lies in their integrity: as an undivided whole they add up to much more than the sum of their parts.

Dispersal of an archive can be tantamount to its destruction. Of this there is growing public awareness but, as Mr M. M. Chrimes points out lletter. December 7; see also letter, December III the recent sale of Brunel papers shows the great need for wider enlightenment.

Yours faithfully. PAUL D: A. HARVEY, Chairman, British Records Association. Farnley Hey Road, Durham.

December 10.

From Mr Roy Davids

Sir, As the person who was respon-sible for the valuation of Sir Winston Churchill's papers when I was at So-theby's, and who was retained by the trustees after I had left, I am prompted to comment on part of Melvyn Bragg's contention ("Why they'll always boo poor Mrs B", December 9) that the archive was secured with a dire, politically inept and badly

handled overpayment". In my view, the trustees of the Churchill Archive Settlement acted entirely honourably in determining that the archive should not be broken up and that the nation should have every opportunity to acquire it. In fact the Lords Rothschild and Gowrie secured bargain on behalf of the nation for its £12.5 million net of tax against valuations of £20 million to £25 million gross. More billionaires and mil-lionaires collect Churchill than any other British historical personality and, as stated at the time, the price for the papers on the open market could have totalled £30 million, even per-

haps £40 million. My valuation of the papers was acceptable to both sides and never questioned as far as I know. The sale was delayed for more than four years while the Government investigated the possible public ownership of part of the archive. After long legal debate it had to be accepted, doubtless with reluctance, that the conventions applying to ministerial papers at the time Churchill was in office, and for a considerable time thereafter, should

govern the ownership and disposition

of the archive.

The archive was by far the most inportant and valuable to be offered for sale in this country. It consists of some 3,500 files, each containing on average about 150 pages, many of them writ-ten or annotated by Churchill himself. There are more than a thousand let-ters by Churchill, each worth between \$500 and \$20,000; over 800 files of exceptionally important ministerial and prime ministérial papers; extensive drafts and annotated proofs for most of his major literary and historical books and articles; a vast correspondence with virtually everyone from Edward VIII to Bernard Shaw: and over 200 files containing notes, drafts, typescripts, etc., of more than 1,000

Just three of these speeches, characteristically laid out like verse to match the cadence of his voice and length of line in delivery — "Blood, toil, tears, and sweat", "We shall fight on the beaches" and "This was their finest

hour" — would together probably have made at least £1 million had they been sold at auction.

In my view the greater outrage is that heritage and lottery funding is not available at all for the purchase of the papers of living writers.

Yours faithfully. ROY DAVIDS. The Old Forge. Rectory Road, Great Haseley, Oxford.

From Mr Tom Stoppard

Sir, As students of journalism may already suspect, my valuable collection of letters from Felicity Kendal is not yet lost to the nation, and serious researchers must apply to me.

Yours etc. TOM STOPPARD. c/o Peters, Fraser and Dunlop, The Chambers, Chelsea Harbour, SW10.

From the Chairman of the Society of Authors

Sir. Libby Purves rightly draws attention to the plight of public libraries and its knock-on effect on authors. We have been told by the Department of National Heritage that Mrs Bottomley is proposing to reduce next February's allocation for public lending right, in spite of promising a year ago that it would remain at £5 million (a figure which has not changed signifi-cantly since 1993-94). If followed through, her action would cause dis-tress to individual authors disproportionate to the very small saving the Government would make.

We have asked the Secretary of State to think again.

Yours faithfully. SIMON BRETT. The Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, SW10.

Eton snobbery comes in for a caning

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, Isn't Guy Walters ("Why Eton parents should follow the rules or stay at home". December 10) stretching a point, or being simply naive, in thinking, however lightheartedly, that Prince William could possibly be embarrassed further by the actions of his parents (see also report, December 9).

Knowledge of their private lives h already reached a much larger public than the congregation at the Eton College carol service; they have, individually, seen to that. I am sure that Prince William's feelings were more likely those of pride that his parents had come together to hear him read the lesson, rather than of the fear of superficial taunts and name-calling

from his peers. While recognising that boarding may once have had its harsh and cruel side, I wouldn't mind betting that Prince William's schoolfellows are, on the whole, kind, understanding, supportive and considerate of his posi-

Tongue-in-cheek though the article may be in its expose of anachronistic schoolboy attitudes and jargon, it is a pity, in my view, that Prince William and his parents should provide the ex-

Yours sincerely, JOHN PITTUCK, Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Richard Burns

Sir. Guy Walters's article may have been intended as a lighthearted piece, but if it does accurately represent the prejudices of the boys at Eton College,

Rome and Canterbury

Sir. The "common declaration" issued by Archbishop Carey and the Pope fleading article, "When in Rome".

While we all move about in some apprehension of the next bomb blast, to be reading of discussions on the female priesthood or papal primacy (reports, December 3-7), descriptions of Dr Carey in full fig, and the pomp of the Vatican can only reinforce the feelings of many that the Churches are

appear to be pointless if the two beliefs cannot handle a real problem right under their noses. Either the Churches really get involved in trying to find a way for the community to live together, or they firmly and publicly disassociate themselves from the two

Yours, with concern. BRUCE V. JONES, Down Ampney House, Down Ampney. Cirencester, Gloucestershire. December 9.

From Mr R. D. Bloomfield ...

Sir, You quote Dr Carey as telling the Pope that both sides should acknowledge the "enormous strengths women how depressing it all is.

They can only have got their view of a world inhabited by "nouvs" and "peasants" from their parents. Accordingly, those who live in the wastelands beyond the M25 and drive "bloody accountant's car" now know just what the overprivileged, viciously snobbish and greedy fools inhabiting this section of society think of us. Roll

on the revolution! Yours faithfully. RICHARD BURNS. Home Farm, Shawell Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire. December 10.

From Mr Michael Lyle

Sir. Well, your article on the Eton carol service just about sums it up. The leadership of the country is to be entrusted to people who aren't keen on anything, especially the British motor industry: simultaneously despise both men who look poor and women who wear interesting clothes; exhibit an anxious conformism which can only be described as "petty-bourgeois"; and are taught by men who can't throw a

A worrying prospect; and to underline it, these are now apparently the qualifications not merely for our rulers, but for a king. How the upper classes have changed since the days of that most distinguished of Etonians. the late Captain Hook. Even my spelling checker suggests replacing them with Estonians.

found importance - abbesses, prior-

But has the Archbishop overlooked

esses, theologians, mystics, writers.

the distinction between pastoral and sacerdotal? Our own Hilda of Whitby,

that powerful figure in the Anglican

story, would have been horrified if it

had been proposed to her that she

should be ordained, and then cele-

The roles of these women in the

Church had their own glory and need-

ed no such embellishment.

Craven Arms, Shropshire.

will they cope in heaven?

Town Lane, Norwich, Norfolk.

Yours faithfully.

P. M. HOPKINS,

Garvestone Rectory.

17 Watling Street, Leintwardine.

From the Reverend Patricia Hopkins

Sir, Ruth Gledhill's assertion (report.

early editions. December 3) that

Received wisdom in the Church of

England is that most congregations

cannot take more than one hour of

worship" is cause for alarm. However

Weekend Money letters, page 31

RAY BLOOMFIELD,

Yours faithfully. MICHAEL LYLE, Maenilwyd, Uangynog, Carmarthen. December 10.

brate Mass.

Yours faithfully.

December 6.

decent party.

port, December 6). The Pope surely needed no reminder. The long history of the Church is full of women of pro-

From Mr Bruce V. Jones

December 7) would have had much more relevance to the reality of the everyday life of their respective Churches in the UK if some reference had been made to the situation in Northern Ireland.

irrelevant. Talks about ecumenicalism would

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be bring to the Christian mission" (refaxed to 0171-782-5046.

Gifted children

December 10.

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, The Labour Party proposes to use National Lottery funds to assist the development of talented youngsters and turn them into "the Nobel Prize winners of the future" (report, December 2; also leading article, same

It cannot be denied that to invest in the education and skills of the most any nation can make, but surely that can best be done by selecting such children and giving them the benefit of being formally educated at schools best equipped to develop their talents, and not by "after-school clubs" and

"information technology cafes".

That is the justification for the Government's assisted places scheme. which is correctly funded by the Department for Education and Employment and not by raiding National Lottery funds. Yet one of the few unequivocal pledges the Labour Party has given, if returned to power, is to stop this excellent scheme.

Yours truly, JOHN F. MARTIN, 57 Tycehurst Hill, Loughton, Essex. December 3.

Hope for millennium

From Mrs Janet Paine

Sir, Michael Smith (letter, December 11) underlines the importance of the millennium's substance. Would it be possible to launch a nationwide essay competition for children and the under-25s?

This would give a chance for those who are going to live in it to express their hopes and expectations for the next century. It might also get them thinking about how such a vision could be realised.

Yours sincerely.

JANET PAINE. 7 Lindow Road. Old Trafford, Manchester. December 13.

Playing it straight

From Mr John Phillips

Sir. No doubt the sexuality of Mr Stephen Twigg (letter, December 7) should be irrelevant to his chances of success as a Labour candidate in the next general election: but surely his desire to be open and honest with the public has to be a drawback in his chosen profession.

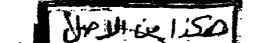
Yours faithfully, JOHN PHILLÍPS, 22 Silvermead Road. Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. December 7.

Personality poll

From Mr G. Bruce Smith

Sir, Why has the BBC acted to stop the Labour Party unfairly promoting the cause of Mr Blair in the Radio 4 Today programme's personality of the year ballot (reports, December 13) when they have allowed the presenters of that programme to do so every morning for the past year?

Yours faithfully. G. BRUCE SMITH, 309 North Deeside Road. Milltimber, Aberdeen. December 13.



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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 13: The Amir of the State of Oatar and Shaikha Mouza visited The Queen.

Her Excellency Mrs Saida Chtioui was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Tunisia to the Court of St James's. Mr Robertson Young (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs)

His Excellency Jonkheer Prosper Thuysbaert and Mrs Thuysbaert were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Kingdom of Belgium to the Court of St James 3. ST JAMES'S PALACE December 13: The Prince of Wales

this morning visited Wiston House Conference Centre, Wilton Park, Steyning, in honour of its Fiftieth Anniversary and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Major General Sir Philip Ward).

His Royal Highness spoke at a conference on "A Sense of the Sacred — Building Bridges between Islam and the West" and afterwards attended a Luncheon.

December 13: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President. The Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Kenneth MacMillan Choreographic Com-petition at the Royal Ballet School. White Lodge, Richmond Park. KENSINGTON PALACE December 13: The Duchess of

Gloucester, accompanied by The Duke of Gloucester, today took the Salute at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Camberley. Their Royal Highnesses were

recrived on arrival by Her Maj-esty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr Philip Wroughton). YORK HOUSE

PORK HOUSE December 13: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, today received Lieutenant-Colonel Charles O'Brien on assuming command of the 5th Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Walter on rel-

inquising the appointment.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-inChief, the Royal Regiment of
Fusiliers, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Cass on assuming command of the 2nd Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Whistler on relinquishing the appointment.

Lincoln's Inn

Colonel David Hills has been appointed Under Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn in succession to Captain Malcolm Carver RN. Colonel Hills will start work in May and will take over when Captain Carver retires on August 31, 1997, after 15 years service.

Cumberland Lodge

Or Eric Anderson, Rector of Lincoin College. Oxford, is to succeed Lord Moore of Wolvercote as Chairman of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Foundation of St Catharine's.

Election

Royal London Yacht Club Mr Keith Topicy has been elected Commodore of the Royal London Yacht Club in succession to Mr

Inner Temple

Manters of the Stoch Mr Justice Keith, Judge Weeks QC, Mr Michael Spencer, QC, Mr Roderick Denyer, QC, Miss Genevra Caws, QC, Mr Victor Temple, QC, and Mr Richard Plender, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Election

Hendreistresses Conference Mr Michael B. Mavor, Head Master of Rugby School, has been elected Chairman of The Head-masters' and Headmistresses' Conference for the year 1997.

Legal appointment

Chreait Judge Mr Adrian Charles Smith to be a Circuit ,Judge, assigned to the Northern Circuit.

Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of Edinburgh
The Rev Rosemary Nixon, Director Ruth Elizabeth Tait has been tor and Principal of the Theologi- commissioned as NS Priest at St cal Institute of the Scottist Episcopal Church, has been ap-pointed Pantonian Professor of Theology and as such has been installed as Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. Ordinations and appointments

Diocese of Abendees and Ingrid St Clair Cosby, previously NS Deacon at St Mary's, Stromness, has been ordained to the priesthood. She remains at St.

Mary's as NS Priest. Eleanor Morson, Assistant Priest at St Olaf's, Kirkwall, has been Magnus (Church of Scotland) Cathedral, This is in addition previously NSM at St Michael's. Diocese of Glasgow and

Galloway
George Newlands has been issued with a Warrant to officiate in the

Ivan Thomas Draper, Hon Assistant Curate at St Bride's, Glasgow, has been licensed as Temporary Priest in Charge at St Bride's for six months from November 10. Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkcid

Jonathan Patrick Mason, pre-viously Assistant Curate at Old St Paul's, Edinburgh, has been ap-pointed Rector at All Saints, St



The Duchess of Gloucester inspecting the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst yesterday, accompanied by Major-General John Deverell, commandant of the academy.

TODAY: Captain the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumont, 67; Mr Vivian Bendali, MP, 58; Professor Richard Cassilly, operatic tenor, 69; General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, 84; the Right Rev J.B.R. Grindrod, former Archbishop of Brisbene and Primate of Australia, 77; Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, 81; Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, actress, 61; Mr Thomas McAvoy, MP, 53; Sir Malcolm McIntosh, civil servant, 51: Mr C.R. Morris, former MP, 70; Mr Alberto Morrocco, painter. 79: Mr Toby Newth. Governor. Exeter prison. 59: Sir John Osborn, former MP, 74;

Dame Ruth Railton, founder, Nat-

The second secon

Weekend birthdays

ional Youth Orchestra, 81; Mr Stan Smith, tennis player, 50; Mr Roy Thomason, MP, 52; Sir Simon Towneley, Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, 75; Miss Rosalyn Tureck, conductor, 82: Mr Peter Willian rugby league player, 36.

TOMORROW: Mr David Abell, former chairman and chief ener-utive. Suter. 54: Mrs Valerie Aggett, former Principal. Holborn Law College. 46; Mr Michael Bogdanov, theatre director. 58; Mr Clive Brittain, racehorse trainer,

Henrietta Knight, racchorse trainer, 50: Deaconess Dr Una Kroll, writer and broadcaster, 71; Mr David McMurray, Head-master, Oundle School, 59; Mr 52: Dr S.A. Checkley, psychiatrist, 51; Professor Ivor Crewe, Vice-Si; Professor Ivor Crewe, Vine-Chancellor, Essex University, 51; Lord Croham, 79; Mr Lanfranco Dessori, jockey, 26; Sir Graham Dorey, Bailiff of Guernsey, 64; Air Marshal Str John Fizzpatrick, 67; Miss Ida Haendel, violinist, 72; Mr Gunnar Hägglöf, GCVO, Swedish diplomat, 92; Sir Henry Hardman, civii servant, 91; Mr Oliver Heald, MP, 47; Mr Kevin Husbes, MP Oscar Niemeyer, architect. 89: Miss Edna O'Brien, writer, 60; Mr Brian Roper, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of North London, 47; Commandar Anne Spencer, former director, WRNS, St. Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, FRS, Master, Peterhouse, Cambridge, 64: Professor M.H.F. Wilkins, FRS, MP, 42: Mr Kevin Hughes, MP, 44; Mr Don Johnson, actor, 47; Mr biophysicist, Nobel prizewinner

General Sir Frank Kitson, 70: Miss

Forthcoming marriages

Mr. J.D. Brewe

and Miss A.P. Perricone The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Brewer, of Gomersal, West Yorkshire, and Alexandra. daughter of the late Dott Mario Perricone and of Mrs Mario Pernicone.

Mr D. Eddman

and Miss S. Page The marriage takes place today in the City of London, of Daniel Edeiman, youngest son of Dr and Mrs lack Edeiman, and Samantha Page only daughter of Mr Jeremy Page and Mrs Carolyn Finlay-Notman.

Dr A.J.L. Jowett and Dr S.E. Joyner

The engagement is announced between Andrew James Lund, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Jowett, of Poole, Dorset, and Saskia Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Miles Joyner, of Huxham, Devon. Mr J.D. Less mail Miles C.J. Friend

The engagement is announced between Daniel, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Letts, of London, and Katie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Irvine City of Mrs and Mrs Irvine City of Mrs Mrs Irvine Ci Friend, of Mucklestone Old Rectory, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Mr N.D.C. Williams

and Miss D.E. Davis The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Brigadier and Mrs Tom Williams, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Diane, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. David Davis, of Kensington, London and Washington DC, USA. and Dr J.S. Meecham

Dr and Mrs John Meecham, of Heswall, Wirral, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter. Jennifer, to John, son of Mr and Mrs Ron Burton, of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Mr S.K. Thorpe and Miss J.R. Morris The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs Brian Thorpe, of Ergue Gaberic, Brittany, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Morris, of Guildford, Surrey.

Marriage .

Mr A. Down and Miss J. Minoprio

and Miss J. Minoprio
The marriage has taken place
between Mr Ashley Down, of
Sydney, Australia, and Miss Jo
Micoprio, youngest daughter of
Mr Michael Minoprio, of London, and Mrs Peter Hudson, of

Glass Sellers' Company

The following have been installed as officers of the Glass Sellers' Company for the ensuing year. Master, Mr Robert L. Thomas: Prime Warden, Mr John R. Hitch; Renter Warden, Mr Christopher N.K. Tizard.

Anniversaries are on the facing page

Church services tomorrow

Third Sunday in Advent

ET ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDREN; 1

HC: 10.15 S Euch; 6.30 Choral E. ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC 1; S Euch, O'Chrroll in D. This is the record of John (Gibbons). The Dean: 3.15 Choral E. Suzusion in G. Rejoice in the Lord (Redford). BELFAST CATHEDRAL 10 (KC. 11 Choral C. Darke in F. This is the record of John (Gibbons); 3 Choral E. Murrill in E. Rejolce in the Lord away Union). away (Anout.

BIERTINGHAM CATHEDRAL 9 MP. 9.15 HC.

I Choraj Eoch, O quam gioricsum (Victoria),
Benedictus (Dyson in D). Rt. Rev J Austin: 4
Choraj E. Noble in A. This is the record of John
(Gibbons), Rev P Watts. BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon Hindley: 9.30 Televised Advent Service, This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Provast; 10.30 HC. The Provast Advant Service in John (Gibbons), Canon D Gallier. John (Gibbons), Canon D Gaillee.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch: 11 M.
Benedictus Stanford in B tank, Rejoice in the
Lord slway (Purcell): 330 E, irriand in F,
Siecpers, wake (Bach).

HHISTOL CATHEDRAL Colling Green: TAO M:
8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, The Gloucester Mass
(Shephard). This is the record of John
(Gibbons), Canon P Johnson: 3,30 Choral E,
Wesley Ins. Hear my prayer (Mendelssohr),
Canon I Simpson. WEIGY INE. Hear my prayer (Membersonni).
CANTEMERITY CATHEDRAL: # HC: 9.30 mt 11
8 Euch, Ridout in F, Prope est Dominus
(Regnart), Rev K Willinson: 3.15 E. Moore in G.
Peuple of Ston Gacksonk: 6.30 Complies. The
Dean.
CAMPER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 MC # HC: 10.30 S
Euch, O quam giorissum (Victoria). This is the
meant of John (Gibbons). Archdesco D
Turnbull: 3 E. Popular Carol Service.
CATHERFORD CAMPERIAL: 7.50 MP. # HC.
Rev I Moody: 9.30 Such, Rev J Jones: 11.15 S
Euch, Mass of the Quiet Hour (Odroyol, Canon
D Knight 6 Choral E. Short Service (Gibbons).
This is the record of John (Gibbons). Rev I
Moody. This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev I Moody, CHOSTER CATHEDRAL 7.45 L. 8 HC 10 Euc. Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrins). Canon M Rees; 11.30 Choral M & Holy Baptism, Benedicine (Hantsi In A). Thou Judge of quick and dead (Wesley), Cason M Rees; 3.30 Choral E Pitth Service (Tomkins), Borath coell Palestrina; 6.30 Christingle Service. The Dean. CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL 2 BCC 10 M. Benedicine (Jackson in G). Come my way (Cooper, The Treasurer; 1) S. Buch. O quant gloriosum (Victoria), Prevent us O Lord (Byrd), Rev M Marshall; 1.45 Seafond College Carol Servi, 3.30 S. Chichester Serv (Introde), Prepare ye The way of the Lord (Wiss).
CHEREST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHICAGE A. 10 M. S. Sermon. Benedicine (Chant), Rev T Williams; 11.15 Seuch, Mass (Stravinsky, Paper noster (Stravinsky), Cagon Welson; 6 Led (Brahms).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL 7.40 MC. \$

[Brahms].
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP. 8
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP. 8
Communion: 10.30 Euch, Utany (Wright, This is the record of John (Globons), Canton C Burch,
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canton M Perry;
10 M. Benedicte in A (Harris), Thou Judge of guick and dead (Wesley), Canton D Brown; 13.15
RC. Mass in E Bat (Breinberger), Canton D Hodgeon; 3.30 E The Second Service (Gibbons),
Talls is the record of John (Gibbons).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 3 HC: 9.45 S Buch, Darke in F. View me Lord (Lloyd), Canon Ison; 11.15 M. Benedicire (Sunssion in B tlan, This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Dean's E. Noble in B minor. And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), 6.30 Evening. Never weather-basten sail (Parry), Preb Sidnate. ELOUCESTER CATHEDRAL 5, 12.15 HC: 10.15 Euch. Ryrie Orbit Factor (Figinsones, Stanford n. C. Canon N Chartfield: 3 5, Howeis in 8 minor. Out of your sleep arise and wake GUNLBOOKD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Dr I Fisher: 9.45 S Eirch, A Macaronic Mass Suthertand, Ecoconopies (Handl, Canon Dr M Painter: 11.15 M. Benedictus in F (Eigar, Virga Asses (Bruckned, The Dena: 6.30 E, Sumsion in G, Audivi vocam de, coelo (Tallis, Cranon A Lord LICHRILD CATHLDRAL: I HC 1030 5 Euch, Missa Bryss (Berisley), The Advent Prose (Lloyd). Prepare thyself Zion (Bach), The Treasurer 3.30 E. Sumsion In G. Vox dicents [Naylog. LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.50 HC: 9.305 Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolal Glaydni, Rey M Roberts; 11.15 M, Benedicite in P (Dyson), O thou the central orb (Wood), The Subdeau; 3.45 EP; 7.30 88C Radio Lincolashire/LSG Carol

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP 4 HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon N Vincent; 3 Blessing of the Crib and lighting of the mes Carni Service 4 HC.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7-30 Mc 8 NC. The Provisit 9.30 S Such, Short Serv (Fallis), The Lamb (Tawener, The Provisit 6 Chorsi E, Balistow in G, This is the record of John Millstein 10 Mc. IGIBDORDI.

MEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.10 % Euch. Miles
Brevis (Berkeley). Hyrane a la Vierge (Villette,
6.30 Choral E. Noble in a minor, The much from
above (Vaughan Willette).

NOEWSCH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8. 9.15 MC.
10.10 Sung Such. Missa brevis (Nes), O secraim
convivium (Near), Archdeacon of Lyran; 3.30 E.
Culchester serv (Walton), are maris srelis
(Greigl, The Dean; 7 Norwich School carol serv.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC. 9.30
M. Resolutive in C. Checkonj; 70.30 Euch. Missa
O quam gioriosum (Victoria). The Precentary
3.30 E. Sianitoré in G. Angeless ad Virginera
(Trad. ser Carner)
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 MC. 9.30 HC. PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 HC. The Provost: 11 Sung Euch, The Provost; 6.30 E. Tite Procentor. The Presentor.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Each, Caroon M.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Each, Caroon M.

Carrelle-Smith: 430 Parish Each, Ireland in C.

What is the record of John (Gibbond),

Artinesento of Richmond: 11.30 M. Benedicus

Dominus Desu (Stantont in C. Jubilate (Noble
in R. Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wise);

12.30 Each, Caroon H. Garside: 5.30 E. de

Ceremony of Caroli Britten),

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 945 M.

BEOCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 945 M.

BEOCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 945 M.

BEOCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 945 M.

HISTRELI CATHEDRAL: I HC: 10 MP: 10.00 5 Euch. Spancymente (Mogard, Ave verum Mezard, Ven M Panner 4 EP 6.30 57 Links Hospice Shver Inblier Service, Washey in E. Voz Olcenits (Naylon, Prof E Wilkes. SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 Usary: 8 HC: 9.30 Parish C. Miss M S Likes 11 M, Benediche as Sabann Mundi (Asahadel), Prepare ye the way (Wise), Rev F G Witghn 3.15 E, St Paul's Service (Howeth, Light of the World (Elgar): 3.45 Healing S. Rev J Harding. TRURO CATHEDRAL 2 HC: 9 M; 10 5 Eucl. Ryris Sanctus Benedictus (Durotte), this is the record of John (Glabons), The Treasurer; 6 to Surasion in A. Vox dicents (Naylor), The WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 Sung Euch, Darke in E. O Christ, O blessed Land (Wagner), the Deant I 1.30 M, Holmyd in D. Sistems water WESTIMBITER ABBETT 8 HC: Benedicins in C Stanford, Prepare the way (Wise), Canon D Hutt; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevia (Harvey), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Oculi omnium (Wood), Rev 8 Fenton; 3 E. Service for trebler (Weelkes), Lacentur; coell (byrd). Rev P Boardman; 5.45 Recital; 6.30 Evening, Canon The Precentor; 1: 1 S Euch, Missa Elicasis (wills), How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer), Canon D Thomas; 6.30 Statutory E. Canon R wintle. Wirfle.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC: 11
Choral Euch, Collegium Regale [Howelin, Lasset ans Incloien (Mendelssona), Rev Chancetop D Rees 3.30 Choral 8, I walted for the Lord (Mendelssona), ST DAYIDS CATHEDRAL'S HC. 9.30 Cymun Sendigaid, yr is Ganon 9.30 Parish Burth. The Dean: 11.15 Choral M, Benedicise (Somition In B Bad, Jobblate Islanford in 8 Bad, John ley ybounden (Ord), The Dean: 6 Choral 8, Walmisley in D minor, 0 Lord give thy Holy Spirit (Pallis), The Canon.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10.8 Spirit (Tallis), The Canon.

ST EDMINDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S
Buch, Collegium Regaie Howelist, Darke, Ave
evrium (Eigar); 11:30 Choral M, Moore-Wilan,
Expend O Lord (Tallis); 3:30 Choral E, Howard
in A flat. Those will keep him (Heilam).

ST CEDRICE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 3:10.

6 LM; 11:30 Solumn M, Rorare coeli (Haydn),
Jubliste Deo (Howard, Sev I E Cronin: 4 Carol
serv. BY CILES CATHEDRAL, collaborate 3 HC. The Minister: 10 HC. Minis Stories (Serieles), the

Minister: i i 30 MS. This is the record of John (Glibbors), Rev Hilary Smith: 6 St Glies at Six, rendand Consort: 8 ft. The Minister. Traul-Teather A., Lander & H.C. 1.5 M.

If a Ruch, Missa de la Baralla Escourar
(Guerrero), Benedictus in D. (Oyson), Rejoice in
the Lord alway (Anon), Rev M. Saward; 3.15 E.
Child for four means, Judge me O. God
(Mendelsoohn), Rev A Boddington; S.15 Eschal. Odendessonni, Rey A Boddington; S. 15 Extribal, RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Englished Gardens, London, SW: 10.30 Divine Libray, Elevan and traditional polyphomy, Diocesson Eshop blet, Anthony, ALL SARVITS, HATGETTS Free, WI: 8,15 LM; 10.20 MP. 11 HM, Missa Brey's in G Mozzar, Eryl Peterson; 6 the Western in E. Bey Cavita. ALL SOURS, Langham Place, Wi! 9
Communion: 1: Family Service. Rev R Bawes.
6-30 Carolis by Candielight, Rev J Cook.
INE ASSUMETHEM, Warwick Street, Wir I's
Western Wind Mass (Davener, Hosanna fillo
David (Cheal), Royel coeff desiper (Generol). CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, 8W3: 8 HC; 10 Children: 11 M, O thou the central orb (wood, flew the central orb (wood, flew the central orb (wood, flew the central orb); 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev D Beau. WI: I SUNDAY SCHOOL COUNT COURT CENERAL OF SCOTLAND, COVERS GARGES, WCZ: 11.15 Rev J McMahon; 6.30 Est S Hood. BOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, 5W7: Priceston 7.30 Carole by candidight, Pric W Gumbel, Rev & Miller. THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, 5W7; 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass. Mass in B flat (Schubert), Virga Jesse (Bruckner); 12,30, 4,30, 7 Mass; 3,30 V & B, Ette conciples (Handi). ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: PRETE Gins. WS: 11 Holy Mass. Archbishop Y L Rey Dr L Griding. WESTMEINSTER, CENTRAL WALL DANISHED, HT ANNE AND STACKES (Luthermi), Greenam St. 202: 11 Choral Ench, Rev P Schmiege: 2 Swahili Christmas Celebration; 7 Bach Vespers, Schwing: Breedig etch empor Bach, Nun bomm Ger Heiden Heiland (Walter), Rev P form our results for the Galact, imbuned, schniege.

ST SASTIJOHNIEW THE GALACT, imbuned, sci: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Misra Solemais, Canglais), Rev S Cure 630 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), 0 quam suavis est Domine (Lobo), Alma Redemptoris Maire (Palestrica), The RACKOT.

ST BRIDG'S, Fleet Street. EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch. Jubitate Benedicite (Lloyd), Noble In Endoor. There is no rose (ombert). Canon J Oaler, 6.30 Choral E. Plainsong Evensong for Men's Voices. A Ceremony of Carols (British), Carem J Oales. ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Chorst Euch, Darke in P. Ave Marie (Parsons), Rev P Bishop.
ST COLUMBAT CRUENCE OF SCOTTAND, Pont Street, SWI: 11 A VISION OF CRUENTIMES, 6.30 Rev C Marient. ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Pisce: 9, 11 Masses,

ST GEORGES. Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC: ST JAMES R. Sneets Gurdens, W2: 8 Euch: 10.30 S Euch Mina Brevis (Palestrina), Jerusalem Surge (Isaac), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Sumsion in U. How beautiful (Sminer). ST JAMES'S, Pleasedlily: 8,30 HC: 11 S Euch, Rev S Cathle; 5.45 EP. ST JOHN'S, Straiford E15: 11 HC, Fantasia & Pugue in G minor (Bach), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev J Richardson.

ST UME'S, Cheisea, SW3: 10.30 S Euch, This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev J Hadley; 12.15 HC; 8.30 E, Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wisc), Rev L Matabula. ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family Communion: 11 5 Euch, Short Service, (Senen), Lord we bessech thee (Senen), Rev T Deronstitut Jones. ST MARGARITE, Westminster, SWI: 11 S Buch, Missa actorna Christ munera, Thee shall a star [Mcndelssohn), Rev Dr P Bradshew.
57 Martin-Hriel-Fields, WCz. 5, HC: 9.45
E. The Vicar: 11.30 Visitory S, Rev B Schünemann; 12.30 HC, Rev W Rarchiord: 2.45
Chinese S, Rev O Lee; S Choral E: 6.30 ES, Rev Clart Herbern. ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington WS: 9.30 Euch, Bishop of Kensington: 1 , 15 Choral M. Father Gell: 6.30 E, Mr Nigel Pain. ST MAKY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 8, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Misse in C K258 Spaur-messe (Mozart), Lord Boncler & E & E. Lord Routies 6 E. A. B.

ST MARYLEBONE. Marylebone Road. WI: 8
HC 11 Choral Euch. Mars for five voices (Byrd).
This is the record of John (Cibbons).

ST PAUL'S, Witton Place, SW 1: 8, 9 HC: 11 Mesae cam jubido (Durutie). Rev Neil Dawson.

ST PRIESS, Earon Square, SW1: 8, 15 HC: 10 Parally Euch: 11 Sung Euch, Missa Mon coeurer recommande a Yous (Eccard), Fr AR.
Chidwick.

Chidwick.
CRAPD. EDVAL OF ST PETER D VINCULA.
CRAPD. EDVAL OF ST PETER D VINCULA.
HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC. Rev P R C
Abram. 11 M. Responses (Smith), Berredicise
Sumsion), A: Behold the hour cometh
(Tomkins), Rev P R C Abram.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St. Immer's Painer: 8.30 HC:
11.15 Carois.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampies Court Painer: 8.30
HC: 11 M. Purcell In B Fist, This is the record
(Cibbons): 3.30 E. Veni domine (Esquivel):
Rejoice in the Lord Purcell.
GROSVENDR CHAPEL, South Audiey Street.
W118.15 HC: 11 Sung Ench. Missa in honorem
Sencti Dominici (Rubbra). This is the record
(Cibbond, Tocata and Fugure in B fist
Irachabell, Rev N Whitehouse.
QUIENNS CHAPEL OF THE SAVOT. STC: 11 M. Pscheibil). Rev N Whitebours.

QUEEN'S CHAPIL OF THE SAVOT, WCE II M.
Te deum (Stanford in 8 flah, This is the record
(Gibbons). Rev A Wynne; 12.30 HC.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC:
11.30 Carol S: 3 Children's Carol S.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI;
11 Lessons and Carols; 12 HC, 6 Lessons and
carols. Great songs of Christmas (art Lowder),
hand of trib Leaded.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL. Greenwich,
3E10: 11 Sung Euch, Rejock in the Lord alway
(Puttell). Lev Cilve French. TRADE: 0171 481 1982 4

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

ARDING - Edward Fir/L RAF.VR 1924-1946, Et blicker knowers, ELF,

2003 - Alan Alistair (Angus) 1375. Died December 15th 1984. Examplering with love and gratitude the golden years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hebrich, Houte beirfich, mor-gen soudrich, Demock-danklich hear und mousen Gom-m pastern. Gir. Lenning 1729 -

FORESTI WAY 901000 in the living multion of Gurdjielf

IDE MIT

POWER TO

CHEAT DEATH

0171-782 7344

FAX: 0171-782 7827

rices are religion to combine and absorbe be red by 2.20 year two days

has come and given us indistributed by the come and given us indistributed by the come the true God; indeed we are in him who is true, since we are in his Som Jesus Christ. 1 John 5: 20 BIRTHS DEATES IN MEMORIAM -December 12th peaced sway passerfully at 3t George's hursing Home, Cobham.
Survey (formerly of Townshend Bood, London huxband of Julis and father of Hilling, Tanya and Minna. He will be greatly missed. Funnal Service to be bold at 3.30 pm. No flowers. Donations to The Weinmann Institute, Accudet House, 44 Laker Street, FO Box 2282, London Wil 1819. EDELETAN - Meurice Edelmy Mr. Bensembered - Oldfrieder and every day by his wife Tilli and daughter levis and farmies.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BARNWELL-On December 8th to Diazzmid and jean (née Aithen), in Huddensfield, a son, Alexander Liam, a houther to George.

CHAMDLER - On 13th December to Jane (née Humphries) and Peter, a beautiful daughter, Lucy Florence, a much wanted sister for Emily, Christian and Robert. con Botton, controlling on formalise 29th, to Charles and Caroline (new Verdonck), a cloughter, Georgian Jessifer Bedine. Ozford, to Sophie (nee Emslie-Smith) and Barter, a son, Finlay Andrew.

AMASKOS - On December 11th at The Fortland Hospital, to Eugenia (nee Chandris) and John, triplets Philip, Anastasia and Hysto.

PARTY AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE P DUROSS - Heather on December 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Kimberly and John, a very beautiful daughter Taxa EMANUEL . On November

28th, to Karen (nie Kabela), 28th, to Karen (nie Kabela), 28 Peter, a lovely son, David, WARDERS - On December 1st, to Copenhagen, to Rejecta (nie Shaw), and Jasgan, a daughter, Madeleine

MUMPHAET - On the 10th December, la Kingston Hospital, to John and Nation of the December of The Portland Hospital, to Haria and Dominic, a dampine, Elizabeth Seath

Mary's Paddington to Victoria (née Nott) sud Angus a daughter Amelia Harry.

Tart's - On December 9th at
The Portland Hospital, to
Michelle (née Dann) and
Jonathan, a beautiful son,
Millian, a beautiful son,
Millian, a beautiful son,

TG1684 a bester for the TG1684 a bester for the TG1684 and Christopher, a son TRUCKOW - On Sta December 1996, to Paula (1646 Chisrall) and Christopher, a son, James Paul John.

The Portland Rospital, to Melanic and Keith, a besutiful daughter, Alexandra, a sister for

PAULWEIDER - On 14th December, 1946, at St Gemond's, Osmington, Denset, John Paul to Andrey Weeden formerly of Weymouth, Sierra Leone, The Gambis, Belize, The Eshamas and the Isle of Man; now at Sherileid-ou-Lodden, Hampahire.

DEATES

CLARK - Joyce Margaret peacefully at home on December 12th 1996, aged 85 years. Nuch loved mecher of Susan, Ann and George and a beloved granny. Proceed Evident at the Article Country, Grenoside, Sheffish on Thompsy December 19th at 2.45pm after a private cremation. No flowers please. Donations, in Hea, for The Exital Eed Crem Seciety to A E Heward F/D, 2a Penistone Road, Grenoside, Sheffield, S20 3QC.

1996. Isabel Dorena Tennant, syddeniy but pencefully. Dear and loved wife of Leonard, Wing Commander RAF (RTD) and loving mother of Lenias nod Philippa. Private cremetion for fixelly and dose friends only on Friday 20th December. No flowers. Describes if desired to the British Diabetic Association to Doving Funenti Services, Wallis House, Milford-on-Sea, Hanta, SO41 CQD.

DAMELL - Brigadier Robert
Berger Bell, Int
Royal Horse Artillery on
December 11th, peacefully
in his 96 year. Husband of
the late Setty. Funeral and
forche of Therebring et
St. Ethelberts Church,
Bersey, Extractic,
st 12 noon, on Thursday
19th Uncenter, Proven to A
E Thurlow & Son, Inwerth,
Suffolk.

ptitute, Accusist House, 44 ker Street, PO Box 2282, pdon WIA 18W.

London Wid 18W.

Mether Wallop, Rampahha.
Wilfred John Satcliffe (Jack), aged 87, formerly of North Elmham, Noriolk.

Jenes and much loved father of Juliah and Louise.

By Nicholas Charch, Twyford, Norfolk on Saturday December 21et at 11sm. Flowers may be sent to Hendry 2 Sons F/D, Foundam, Noriolk.

Fondam, Residit.

FORMESTER - Peacefully at home on Wednesday 11th December 1970, Alexander Camitson, formestly Professor of Antesthesia at Clengow University and Glasgow Zoyal Infirmary, Dearly loyed husband of Agnes, much loved father of James, Aliana and Douald and a loying grandfather. Funcal Service in Pandee Crematorium, on Monday December 16th at 3pm All friends are respectfully instead. GRIFFIN - George W (Griffy), on December 11th 1994, after a short illness. Much loved untile of Dephne and beach Pennes of Thursday December 19th 1994, at 12

WALLEY-WARRED - Nicolay To (Joy) peacefully on 11th December sged 79. Beverley, Seiburst and Guildford High Schools. Funeral Service at 2.20 pm on Thumsday 19th December at St Saviours Church, Guildford, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, domnitons if desired to The Bible Society or MERCE of Jim. Funeral Period.
Mary Road, Guildford, GUI 4QI, tek (01483) 567394. NORME - Stanley Walter peacefully on December 9th at St Edmund's Hospital Memorial Service on December 18th at 2 pm at 88 Giles Church, Northampton. HART Such (new Year) or Toursday 5th December pendently but shop after a short lines, followed the of Robert and beloved despise of Four a spend manufal carries all this place in the new year to enleptum but life.

LEF - On Wednesday 12th December 1996, F.G. Spencer studenty at home, aged 67 years. Very much loved implant of Sarah, Earen and Christopher and loving parameters of Easen and Adam Friest transition. Family flowers only. A parties of Tamasgaving will be half at all latent Cruck. Braunation at the property of the parameters of Tamasgaving will be half at all latent Cruck. Braunation at 2.30pm on Setunday 4th January 1997. Dougloom, if wished, for The Sritish Legion, Braunation Brainch clu Towers & Som F.S. Church Street, Crick, Fandaumen, 1997. Take 01788 822349.

irmer - Dr. Juser Marin Links, born Breslan 27th February 1910, died Bushey, Henris 30th Hovember 1996. Engineer and physicist, formerly of F.O. Telecom. Admired and leved by his many friends.

ROOME - On 12th December 1996, at the Conquest Hospital, Hastings, Hilary Lichard and Meriel and such loand awar and great wuch loved aunt and great aunt. Fuberal at St. Mary Magniste. Whether No Battle at 11 a.m. on Thursday 19 December. Megazin to 01474 775515. Antimaton on Denimber 12th, Elizabeth (nee Gomma) and 25 years of Crook, County Burban, Deady loved wife of Harry, leving mother of fabbet and John Pittens planes sent for Regents Many at It Cathories RC Church, Grook, on Tuesday, 17th December, at 112m, Internees to follow.

ROBINSON - On 11th December 1996, in Newton Abbot, Devon, Statis Mary (ade McRae), aged 84. Memorial Service St. Mcholas Church, Magmara, Davon, on 1st March 1997, 20 con 1st March 1997, 20 con 1st March 1997,

PUTIF - Minima Limes of the The Priory, St Otaves, on December 11th 1996, and 99 years, peacefully in hespital Mother of Mil and mother-below of Issin-Funcial Service at Hersingsheet Chesch, Sessible on December 17th at 11.30mm. Flowers to Misses A jury & Soms, Gotherton, Ct Remouth, Norfelk.

Samouth, Monthes.

Small: - Henry Bertham, disk peacefully, at Paraborough Herstein, on Link Desember, aged 75. Sinch beloved by his wife Phyl and his daughters Alexan and Eathern Service will be held on Dismolar John Desember, at Bertham Camantorium, 10m. Funity Hower only. Donations to Friunds of Goys do Frames Chappell & Gays c/o Frances Chappell & Son, 231 Bigh Street, Bromley, tak (0181) 460 1720. Discourse of a lith December 1996 percetally in benefits, Wer Atterial Str. Bugh Rompson, REL Fing, of Corston, Eath. Greatly loved by all his family, Frivate family functed on Thursday 19th December at moon at All Saints Church, Corston, Fundly flower only but detailed on the Royal Matterial Lifeboat Listington in Matterial Lifeboat Listington Church Reacch) on New Open Reacch) on New Open Reacch)

Rational Lifeboot Institution (Burk Beanel) ets West Cany Road, Poole, Dorset, BRIS 1822. A Memorial Service will be held in Buth Abbey to commence by the and walk on Pathry 31st James, 1997 of making

1977 st middle 1900 and 1970 a We do. Kidney research say MITHERS (née Williams), Mary Constance, pencefully a large state a large state against cancer, en 12th December 1994 Much level state and states of State and States at 130pm, on Thursday 19th December. Family flowers only. Thursday 19th January 1997, at 20m, in the Habackelt Suides Dome, Ashurat, Skelmersdale. Engeleis, vol 01695 50862.

MEY MEY 3 Ancheste Court, Statisley Read, Hurstingdon, Canchidyasthire FETE SING Telephone 01450 45428 Segletond Charly So, 252882 LEGAL, FUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES TO PLACE PROTECTS FOR THESE

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TRUSTEE ACTS

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COURT & SOCIAL PORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES Over the Christmas period the following deadline will apply:-

Notices in appear onPriday December 20, Sanarday December 21,
Monday December 23, Trucsday December 24,
Thursday December 25, Priday December 27,
attackey December 28, and Monday December 30
about he received in writing by
Spin on Wednesday December 18. ALL NOTICES ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT. TO CONFIRMATION Tel: 0171 782 7347 Fax: 0171 782 7725

FAX: 0171 481 9313 TRUSTEE ACTS LEGAL NOTICES IN THE MATTER OF THE DESCL THESE MACE 1986
DETERM MATTER OF MOTHERS MARRIEVELTER & MCCHAMER LINGUIS OF MOTHERS IN ADMINISTRATION MOTHER IS REMEMBER GRAVER presents to Section 96 of the law-evency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the abreview issued Company will be hald at The Sciennie Hotel, The Crystal Room, Forthand Street, Manches for MI, 314, on Fishey the 10th day of January 1997 at 11.30 am for the purposes memicaned on Sections 99 to 101 of the add Act. 127, Tabuten, Morethn, Teulada, Alicana, Spain died on 22nd Ageil 1996, Particulators to Lan-cations - 486 Chiewick High Road London Wi 577 Rad. AW 1276-41/5. Administrator: Vicio-olus David George Royal, Claims before 19th February 1997 DEGISTMANCE Skoay Office (Otherwise Leaves Condition (Carlos Dightmanker) hate of 19 Williams Dromey Court, Dyne Road, Ellbern, London, NWG, Particulant to EXITH HALL, JUVILIE & Ded. Cher Condition Condition (Carlos Carlos Car for the purposes menutemed on Sections 99 to 1071 of the said for the Sections 99 to 1071 of the said for the Conditions of the Company and the Inspected free of clamps at the offices of Kideons Imper, Devoushire Scores, 26 George-Stoses, Manuchaster M. 4HA on the said of the meeting of the section of the meeting. Dated this 12th day of December 1996 of SULTON ENGINEERS ADMINISTRATION [CINT ADMINISTRATION] HEWITT LOUISA EMILY (otherwise LOUISE EMILY) of 68 collision. Hamperson a 66 collision. Hamperson a 66 collision. Hamperson a 66 collision of particulars to 68 collisions of Wilston & 80 collisions of Wilston HOUSE, 849 ERGENT AND HOUSE SOLISIONS OF THE HOUSE CONTROL OF THE HOUSE C LIPLI NUCREAS DENIGONOS LATA CE 22 TROMANS BOYS, LONGON SENS DENIGON ME DOLL 1996. PARTICULARS TO CHARLES BURNILL SOLICITORS \$1.00 PMW HOTTER LANG. LONGON SCAA THE CRAFT DENIGONOM SCAA THE CRAFT DENIGONOM SCAA THE CRAFT LANGUAGES REPORT 18 PRINCIPAL 1997 LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTACES

TO PLACE MOTICES FOR THE SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONIA ROCKER, WALTER RUCKARD of 172 Flore Gardens, Elementssatists, London We died on 30 October 1975 particulars to
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PUBLIC NOTICES

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WESTERN AUSTRALIA **Total Offender** Management Solution .

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The Ministry of Justice of Western Australia invites Expressions of interest for products and services for a total offender management solution. A package integrated information system and implementation services are the major components. Part or total solutions invited. Pre-qualification to restricted tender may follow.

Closing date: 2.30pm WST, Thursday 6 February 1997. Document available: (61 9) 222 5498. Facsimile (61 9) 222 5666. Also on internet http://www.wa.gov.au/contracts/ Enquiries: Cyril Clayton (61 9) 264 1617. Briefing session 9.00am WST, 20 December 1996. $f_4^{791 \text{Liggs}}$

Cildu Seller

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OBITUARIES

GROUP CAPTAIN W. G. G. DUNCAN-SMITH

Group Captain W. G. G. Duncan-Smith, DSO and Bar, DFC and two Bars, wartime fighter ace, died on December 11 aged 82. He was born on May 28, 1914.

n an almost continuous career on fighter operations which was of exceptional length, W. G. G. Duncan-Smith fought in most of the European theatres of the Second World War and was still on active service in the years which followed. He flew Spitfires in the latter reaches of the Battle of Britain and on lighter sweeps over France. He was among those who provided the daylong air cover which was mounted over the ill-fated Dieppe raid of 1942. As a wing-leader he flew operations over the invasions of Sicily and Italy and later covered the Anvil landings in the South of France. Finally, some years after the war was over, he was airborne again, commanding the last RAF Spitfires to fly in anger — over the jungles of Malaya in the early 1950s.

Duncan-Smith was imbued with all those qualities which make the fighter pilot. He had courage, skill, a good eye and that relentless desire to be at hand-grips with the enemy, which is the mailmark of the best fighting men. But he was also a man of great tactical sagacity the lading and played a major role in the re-organisation of the concepts of offensive air operations which took place at Fighter Command at the mid-point of the war.

As a leader of men he was loyal to the point that he was prepared to shoulder the blame for - even serious - mistakes made by subordinates. On one occasion he submitted to an official rebuke which by rights ought to have fallen elsewhere. It was simply not in his nature to require a junior to accept such responsibility.

Wilfred George Gerald Duncan-Smith was born in Madres, where his father was stationed as an officer in the Indian Army. He was educated at Morrison's Academy, Crieff, but returned to India afterwards and engaged in tea-planting. It was there that he developed the reputation as a shot which was later to stand him in such good stead in the air.

But he also contracted malaria and when he returned to England burning to join the RAF, he failed his medical. His father sent him on a mechanical engineer-ing course during which he joined the RAFVR and learnt to fly at weekends. When war came the more pedantic medical criteria were relaxed in an hour of desperate shortage of fighter pilots, and

he was accepted for squadron service. He was lucky not to lose his life before his combat career even began. While still under training, he was making a perfectly correct runway approach when another aircraft collided with him and ripped his airscrew off. But Duncan-Smith managed a pancake landing. With the Battle of Britain over, he was sent to 61! Squadron early in 1941. The squadron had suffered a mauling during the Battle, but when Fighter Command went onto the offensive over occupied France is proved itself

Duncan-Smith had his first combat victory on May 17, 1941, when he shot down an Mel09 and he followed this up with three more by the end of July. In the circumstances this was an exceedingly high scoring rate since most of the air fighting during the sweeps was done against fighters, a different matter from the rich harvest it had been possible to reap among the German bombers during the defensive Battle of Britain. This

performance earned Duncan-Smith the first of his three DFCs.

In August 1941 he went as a flight commander to 603 Squadron, notching up further victories on his way to his first squadron command, of No 64. By this time the Luftwaffe was fielding its new FW190, an aircraft considerably superior to the contemporary marks of Spitfire. But Duncan-Smith's marvellous eye and his ability to bring off deflection shots other men would have missed, made him more than a match for this formidable oppo-

nent and he had soon bagged his first one. On August 19, 1942, he led his squadron over Dieppe, where he shot down two German Dol7 bombers. But as he turned for home a burst from a third bomber's tailgunner caught him and he was forced to bale out from his stricken Spitfire. Badly bruised from bouncing off his aircraft's wingtip as he jumped, he plummeted into a polluted patch of sea ingesting a good deal of oil before he was picked up by a crash boat. Injured in both limbs and lungs as he was, he was sent to hospital and told to stay there. But he was impatient to get back into action, dis-charged himself from hospital next day and was back with his squadron the day



awarded an immediate Bar to his DFC. The experience of Dieppe had been a salutary one for the RAF as well as for the military planners. Post-raid analysis re-vealed that aircraft losses had been extremely high — 108 as against the Germans' 48 — and Fighter Command's C-in-C Trafford Leigh Mallory determined that something should be done

about it. The result was the establishment of the Fighter Leaders' School to improve tactics. With other commanders, Duncan-Smith had a considerable input into the nature of the new institution and later commanded it for several months during 1943, bringing to it his invaluable experience of leading large fighter formations. As a result, the handling of fighters en masse was much improved and losses fell dramatically. By D-Day the RAF was master of the skies over the beachhead.

After a short period commanding the North Weald Wing Duncan-Smith was sent to the Mediterranean theatre in December 1942 and led 244 Wing for the final campaign in North Africa and, then for the invasion of Sicily. With the Allied armies advancing their fronts through Sicily and then up the Italian peninsula.
the fighter and fighter-bomber wings which supported them had to be extremely mobile. They had to accustom themselves to moving from airfield to airfield, establishing themselves as quickly as possible to begin offensive operations, either in sand or dust or, in winter. drenching rain and deep mud.

It was an atmosphere in which leadership was of paramount importance. It could lead either to the forging of deep bonds among the men — or, so easily, to total demoralisation. Under Duncan-Smith, 244 and then 324 Wing, which he later led, developed a spirit of buccaneering independence from authority. His personality ensured a harmonious rela-tionship with groundcrews who often laboured to prepare aircraft for battle in the most appalling and makeshift condi-tions, and with his pilots for whom he was simply a man who could fly a Spittire by the seat of his pants. The toll he took of the enemy continued to climb throughout this period and he was awarded the DSO for his leadership of each wing. But he very nearly lost his life on a third

occasion when he was sent out to intercept the German reconnaissance aircraft which was daily photographing British Eighth Army positions in Sicily where they were concentrating for the thrust into Italy. On this occasion it was bad luck and not the enemy (nor, as previously, an incompetent friendly pilot) which almost brought him to disaster.
His mission had to be carried out at

long range with the help of drop tanks. On this particular occasion the enemy did not appear and when Duncan-Smith switched his tanks prior, reluctantly, to steering course for home, the fuel connection failed and he rapidly began to lose fuel. Again, he was forced to abandon his aircraft and came down in the Strait of Messina, trusting soon to be picked up by British crash boat from the Sicilian shore. But the strong currents in the narrow strait swept him away from safety

and the bleeper radio beacon on his Mae West was picked up by German patrol craft who soon located and began to machinegun him. By luck a Walrus flying boat found him before they could finish him off, and landing under intense fire,

was able to carry him to safety.
In command of 324 Wing in Italy from 1944, Duncan-Smith provided air cover for the US Fifth Army northwards to Cassino and Rome before being sent to support the Allied landings in the South of

France in August 1944.

It was on the wing's return to Italy from these operations that a disaster happened for which, though it was not his fault, Duncan-Smith took full responsibility. when one of its squadrons ignored his explicit order not to land on the makeshift airfield near Florence if the light was going, but to divert to another. Three of the four squadrons landed safely but by the time the fourth approached the light was impossible for landing. Several pilots and ground crew were killed as landing aircraft collided with those already on the ground. At a court of inquiry convened to apportion blame Duncan-Smith allowed none but his name even to be mentioned. He was duly reprimanded.

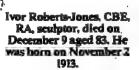
By the end of the war Duncan-Smith had a tally of 19 kills officially confirmed. He stayed in the RAF and was to add to his decorations a third DFC, commandnis decorations a initi DPC, command-ing Spittires (by now exceedingly battle-worn ones) in counter-insurgency operations over the Malayan jungle. In the mid-1950s he had a spell with the USAF flying Sabre jets and he retired in 1959 after a staff job in Germany.

Though not one of nature's business men, he had a successful career with Triplex for a dozen years from 1960, becoming head of the company's aviation division. In this role one of his most satisfying tasks was to oversee the supply of window glass for Concorde.

After final retirement he lived for some years in Rome, where he wrote his memoir Spitfire into Battle (1981). From there he retired to his beloved Scotland until on medical advice he moved to the milder climate of Devon.

He had met his wife Pamela in Naples where she was working as a ballet dancer. They married in 1946. He is survived by her and by their three daughters and two sons, one of whom, lain, is Conservative MP for Chingford.

IVOR ROBERTS-JONES



WITH his statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, unveiled in November 1973, Ivor Roberts-Jones created one of the grandest works of public sculpture in Britain. ... It was also probably the last commemoration of its kind. An age more inclined to pillory prominent figures than to praise them has little use for official memorials to its great and good, even when it can agree on who the great and good might be.

Roberts-Jones welcomed the Churchill commission in so far as it gave him the means to spend more time making sculpture. But he enjoyed neither the wrangling that accompanied it, nor the public attention that it brought.

He could hardly have taken on a more high-profile project. Under the direction of Sir John Tilney, Conservative MP for Wavertree, the public appeal to fund it attracted donations of more than £32,000 in less than five months, with almost 4,500 individuals and organisations contributing. Finding agreement about the details proved less easy. There was a long battle,

much of it fought in the correspondence columns of The Times, about the form the stribute should take: Everybody had their own image of Churchill. Some thought that a statue could never do justice to so monumental and multifaceted a personality. Many, including the subject's widow, thought that the sculpturally crowded traffic island that is Lirliament Square was the wrong site altogether.

In the end the arguments were more or less resolved; Churchill himself, it seemed, had liked the idea of his own statue on the dominant northeast corner of Parliament



Roberts-Jones and his statue of Rupert Brooke at Rugby; and the statue of Churchill in Parliament Square (right)

Square. Nine sculptors were invited to submit proposals. None was initially accepted, but in 1971 Roberts-Jones was one of two invited to resubmit. He got the commission, though he knew that Chur-

chill's family would have preferred Oscar Nemon, whose bronzes of Churchill already stood in the Members' Lobby of the House of Commons and in Conservative Central Office. It was, he said, a very unpleasant business".

He retreated to a hired barn in Suffolk and set to work with two and a half tons of clay. The dimensions of the work - the figure itself was to be 12ft tail were specified in the commission. The sculptor, a small man, set about erecting a vast scaffold of supports, and built an extension to his barn, made of straw bales and polythene sheets, so that he could view

the work from 70 feet away. He survived 20 months of running up and down ladders, cold that froze the clay, and an impromptu private view by a passing bull. The resulting work was unveiled by Lady Spencer-Churchill, in the presence of 800 invited dignitaries and a vast crowd of onlookers, on November 1, 1973. The unveiling turned yet

more public attention on Rob-

General of Australia 1953-60,

Professor Max Planck re-

vealed his quantum theory.

Roald Amundsen reached the

London, 1970.

South Pole, 1911.

erts-Jones, as admirers and detractors of his work took to the correspondence columns once again. He admitted that there was no real reply to those who dismissed it as "that nasty object".
But he felt that he had

fulfilled the commission -"He was, I was told, the Rock of Gibraltar, and I gave them the bloody Rock of Gibraltar* - while still managing to convey some of the complexity he had set out to capture in his subject. If there was an element of caricature in the resulting "indomitable, tense object", that was probably inevitable, given the way in which Churchill caricatured

himself. Ivor Roberts-Jones was the son of a solicitor who also played international football for Wales. He was educated at Oswestry Grammar School and Worksop College, before going on to study art at Goldsmiths' College and the Royal Academy Schools. His parents had hoped that he might study law.

On leaving the RA Schoolshe travelled in Europe, looking at everything from German Renaissance sculpture to the latest abstract art from France. During the war he served with the Royal Artillery



in India and in the Arakan campaign, and wrote war poetry of some distinction. From 1946 he taught at Goldsmiths', eventually becoming head of sculpture and remaining there until 1978; that institution's later fame as a breeding ground for pickled cows was some way off. He was appointed CBE in 1975. His work can be divided into the public sculptures (which included statues of Viscount Slim and Viscount Alanbrooke, a memorial to

Augustus John at Fording-bridge, and a forceful work called The Two Kings at Harlech Castle); and the more

private portrait heads of fam-

The latter were what he

ilv and friends.

preferred. He liked above all to capture subtleties and ambiguities of character. The many examples of his work in British public collections show how well he succeeded. "A face is a bicycle someone rides," he once said; in his favourite sitters, such as Freya Stark and Somerset Maugham, that bicycle journey could be traced

in vivid detail. The psychological insights of his more intimate work are carried over into the best of his public commissions. But he himself felt that "the real irony of my work is that the smaller it is, the nearer you get to me.' His wife Monica, whom he married in 1940, survives him.

A son and daughter prede-

GEORGE VI PROCLAIMED

THE EMPIRE GREETS

THE NEW REIGN

KING'S DECLARATION TO

ACCESSION COUNCIL

BROADCAST BY THE PRIMATE

proclaimed on Saturday in London and

His Majesty, being this day present in

Your Royal Highnesses, My Lords

Council, was pleased to make the

other capital cities of the Empire.

following Declaration:-

and Gentlemen:

The Accession of King George VI was

ceased him.

as Peter Hall was in fact born within the sound of Bow Bells, since his oustanding contribution to his field transcended national boundaries. His death, following close upon the similarly early deaths of David Buchan in 1994 and Kenny Goldstein in 1995, is a severe blow to folklore and ethnomusicology worldwide. Hall combined the roles of performer, collector, musicologist and scholar.

Peter Hall, folklorist and

musicologist, died of cancer in Aberdeen on

December 5 aged 60. He

was born in London on June 28, 1936.

IT SHOULD not come as a

surprise that a Scottish folklorist and musician such

Although born in London, he was brought up in Aberdeen and Newcastle upon Tyne and went to Aberdeen University in 1955 to read first medicine and then, after National Service, for a science degree. He later took a BEd from the same university, and spent the rest of his profession-al life in the region as a teacher.

In 1959 he married a fellow student, Marion Maclennan, who was later to become an obstetrician and gynaecologist of international repute. With her he shared a love of music. and with the advent of the folk song revival his obsession with jazz playing turned to a passionate interest in folksong and folklore.

The North-East of Scotland has been known to scholars for hundreds of years as one of the richest areas in the world for its vibrant tradition of folksong. When Professor Francis Child of Harvard initiated a search for the great balladry of Britain in the middle of the last century he was straight away directed to Aberdeenshire.

At the beginning of the 20th century the region produced the 3,500 songs of the Greig-

PETER HALL



Duncan Collection, one of the largest and best in existence. Thanks to collectors such as Hamish Henderson of the School of Scottish Studies, it became clear in the 1960s that the area was still rich in song and performers, especially among the travelling people, of whom Jeannie Robertson became a famous example. Hall entered this treasure-

house with enthusiasm, reading widely and collecting from tramps and travellers. farmworkers and North-East folk in general. He was a founder member of the Aberdeen Folk Song Club and established a group to per-form the rich North-East material in 1967. The group, The Gaugers, issued Beware of the Aberdonian in 1970, and was in the process of completing a series of commercial recordings for Aberdeen City Library at the time of Hall's death.

He tape-recorded more than six hundred items of folksong and folktale in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Banffshire, and in the west of Ireland. Many of these were employed in commercial recordings, or in radio and television broadcasts, and many were lodged with the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh.

Hall was a spirited singer and an able musician (having exchanged the jazz trumpet for

the concerting and melodeon) and was invited to perform on radio and television and at concerts and festivals throughout Britain, France, Germany and Belgium. He was much in demand as a musicologist (who could also wear his scholarship lightly) to write record notes, produce broadcasts and jud titions. He wrote articles, both scholarly and popular, and was the original editor (later musical editor) of the Folk Revival magazine Chapbook.

Under the supervision of the sociologist Ian Carter, Hall gained an MLitt from Aberdeen in 1985 on the subject of the unique North-East farm workers' songs (the "bothy ballads"). It remains the classic work on the subject. But he was too modest to publish it, preferring to distil much of its content into an authoritative introduction to Volume Three of the Greig-Duncan Collection, which he co-edited in 1987. He continued working on his researches until the end, concerned that he was leaving so much unfinished through the sudden onset of his illness.

He collaborated with the the MP Norman Buchan (who also died comparatively young, in 1990) to produce 101 Scottish Songs in 1973, a thorough compilation which was reprinted in 1986. Last year he was invited to be consultant to the Edinburgh International Festival for a triumphant series of 21 concerts based on the Greiz-Duncan Collection.

A committed socialist and humanist, Hall was a scientist who loved the arts and a talented photographer whose work was exhibited in Aberdeen Art Gallery. He was kind and generous (especially with his research findings) and a fascinating conversa-tionalist — although sometimes maddeningly didactic.

He is survived by his wife Marion, a daughter and a son.

Weekend anniversaries

BIRTHS: Nostradamus (Michel de Notredame), astrologer. Saint-Remy. 1503; Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, admiral, Annsfield, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, 1775; King George VI, reigned 1936-52, York Cottage, Sandringham, 1895; Paul Eluard, poet, Paris, 1895.

DEATHS: Sir John Oldcastle, elleged heretic, "hung and burnt hanging", London, 1417; King James V of Scotland, reigned 1513-42, Falkland, Fife, 1542: Thomas Rymer, archaeologist and historian, London, 1713; Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, Hamburg, 1788; George Washington, 1st American President 1789-97, Washing-ton, 1799; John Loudon, landscape gardener, London, 1843; Leon Faucher, statesman,

Marseilles, 1854; Albert, Prince Consort, Windsor Cas-tle, 1861; George Hudson, the railway king London, 1871;

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Nero, 5th Roman Emperor AD54-68, Antium (Anzio), AD 37; George Romney, portrait painter, Dalton-Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Balin-Furness, Lancashire, 1734; dwin of Bewdley, Prime Min-Charles Cowden Clarke, critic, ister 1923-24, 1924-29 and 1935-Enfield, Middlesex, 1787; 37, Astley, Lancashire, 1947; Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, Edward John Higgins, 3rd general of the Salvation Army 1929-34, New York. 1947; Will Pyfe, character comedian, St Andrews, 1947; Juho Paasiki-vi, President of Finland 1946-56, Helsinki, 1956; Sir Stanley Spencer, painter, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, 1959; William Slim, 1st Viscount Slim, Field Marshal, Governor-

builder of the tower bearing his name, Dijon, 1832: Niels Finsen, physician, Nobel lanreate 1903, Torchauz, Faroe Islands, 1860; Josef Hoffmann, architect, Pirnitz, Czechoslovakia, 1870; Maxwell Anderson, dramatist. Atlantic, Pennyslvania, 1888. DEATHS: Jan Vermeer, painter. Delft, 1675; Isaac Walton, the "Father of Angling", Winchester, 1683; George

Hickes, theologian, 1715; Ben-

iamin Stillingfleet, naturalist,

London, 1771; Charles Stan-

hope, 3rd Earl Stanhope, poli-

tician and man of science, Chevening, 1816; Sir George Cayley, pioneer of aerodynamics, Scarborough, 1857; Sitting Bull, chief of the Sioux, on Grand River, South Dakota, 1890; Gregory Rasputin, monk, favourite at the Russian court, murdered. St Petersburg, 1916; Wolfgang Pauli, physicist, Nobel laureate 1945, Zurich, 1958; Charles Laughton, actor. Hollywood. 1962; Walt Disney, animated car-toonist and film producer, Los Angeles, 1966.

The remains of Napoleon Bonaparte were deposited in Les Invalides, Paris, 1840. Nylon yarn was first produced commercially, Delaware,

adopted the maple leaf as the

official symbol for the national

I meet you to-day in circumstances The Canadian Parliament

which are without parallel in the history of our Country. Now that the duties of Sovereignty have fallen to Me I declare to you My adherence to the strict principles of constitutional government and My resolve to work before all else for the welfare of the British Commonwealth of Nations. With My Wife as helpmeet by My side, I take up the heavy task which lies before Me. In it I

ON THIS DAY

December 14, 1936 **经**图解 30%

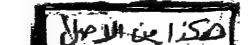
The King came to the throne two days before his 41st birthday. The Duke of Windsor left Portsmouth in a destroyer for Boulogne where he took train for Vienna.

look for the support of all My Peoples. Furthermore, My first act on succeeding My Brother will be to confer on Him a THE ARCHBISHOP'S BROADCAST

"STRANGE AND SAD" The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his broadcast address last night, spoke of the absence of confusion, strile, and clash of parties during the crisis as a wonderful proof of the strength and stability of the Throne and the steadiness of the people.

Referring to the ex-King, who "went out an exile," the Archbishop said that seldom, if ever, had any British Sovereign come to the Throne with greater natural gifts for his kingship; yet, by his own will he surrendered his high and sacred trust because of a craving for private happiness. "Strange and sad." said Dr. Lang, "that for such a motive he should have disappointed hopes so high." He gave a sharp rebuke to King Edward's social circle, but he paid tribute to his long years of eager service to the Empire. The Archbishop referred feelingly to the universal sympathy with Queen Mary and to the gratitude due to

the Prime Minister. Turning from the past to the future, he spoke with hopefulness and confidence of the dawn of the new reign, and, as a personal friend for many years. paid tribute to the new King's personal qualities and the service he has already rendered to the State.



NEWS

Breakthrough on single currency

■ Europe took two important strides towards the creation of the single currency yesterday after Germany and France resolved their long-running dispute over the rules of monetary union.

However John Major and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, united to voice doubts about the ability of even the keenest countries to reach the 1999 target date... Pages 1, 2

Euro notes cash in on bridges

Play it safe was the order given to the designers of the banknotes for the euro, Europe's future single currency, which were released with great fanfare in Dublin. The winning entry, a tasteful assemblage of windows, bridges and gateways through the ages, fitted the euro-sensitive bill impeccably....

Prince's plea

The Prince of Wales condemned modern materialism and made a passionate plea for the West to learn from Islam.

Boy cleared

A public schoolboy who stabbed a pupil from the local comprehensive in the heart was cleared of .. Page 3

Radio vote rigging

Cannabis boast

The Labour Party worker at the centre of an attempt to rig the Radio 4 Today Personality of the Year contest is a senior civil .. Page 4 servant...

An Oxford graduate claiming descent from Sir Walter Raleigh told a judge that he grew Britain's finest cannabis Page 5 **Auction record**

A study by Raphael set a £5.2 million record for a drawing at the end of a week of Old Master auctions in London

■ The lowest turnout in a parliamentary election since 1945 gave Labour another by-election victory. Richard Corbett, who gained 54 per cent of the vote in a fight for a seat in the European Parliament in West Merseyside, attributed the low poll to the

Knife curbs

Curbs on the sale and possession of knives were unanimously backed by MPs....

Election threat

John Major may bring forward the likely date for the general election from May I to March 20 if his MPs do not behave Page 11

Falklands danger

The Falkland Islands face a new danger more insidious, relentless and destabilising than any military threats from Argentina: the discovery of oil-

UN chief named

Kofi Annan, the Ghanaian head of United Nations peacekeeping, won unanimous support as the next Secretary-General Page 13

Martial law defence

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the former Polish Communist leader, emerged from the shadows to defend his role in declaring martial Page 6 law 15 years ago...

Lowest parliamentary poll turnout

weather. Of the 515,549 voters, 11.4 per cent turned out... Page 1



After the Barnsley chop, not much remains of these chumps. Try kebabbed with fresh vegetables. New Labour, new potatoes.

OPINION-

ity shead: With every new "breakthrough" in the single currency process, it becomes clearer why Britain should not only stand aside, but dissuade its neighbours from forging ahead.. Page 19 Put up or top up: By its brave decision on top-up fees, the LSE has embarked on a course which may be its own salvation as a leading teach-. Page 19

LETTERS Traffic jams; Tom Stoppard on writers' archives; Eton

COLUMNS

passes without news of the arrival in another corner of British life of those modern equestrians of the Apocalypse, litigation, compensation and damages Page 18 The Prince of Wales explains how the Muslim critique of materialism helped him to rediscover the sacred Page 18

OBITUARIES

Group Captain W. G. G. Duncan-Smith, wartime fighter ace; Ivor Roberts-Jones, sculptor: Peter Hall, folklorist

S COMMENTAL STATES

Home loans: Halifax and Nationwide are raising standard variable mortgage rates by 0.26 and 0.25 per cent to 7.25 and 6.99.... Guinness: The Court of Hu-

man Rights will rule whether Ernest Saunders was denied the right to a fair trial Page 23 Wickee: The new chief executive and finance director of the group have been given golden parachutes to protect them against a bid ... Page 23 Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell to 3972.2. Sterling rose to 93.2

after rising to DM2.5641 and

staying at \$1.6580 Page 26

am, 19, has elected for rugby union rather than cricket

CAST SPORT

Cricket: Darren Gough had

match figures of 11 for 139, the

best of his career, in En-

gland's 115-rum victory over

Rugby union: England play-

ers on trial against Argentina

include stand-off Mike Catt,

fit again after a chest

Sporting choice: Liam Both-

Page 44

Matabeleland

with Hampshire Page 44

Death of the dashboard: drink-driving; motoring gifts

A COLUMN

metaphorical potential of horticulture has added extra frisson to the noble game of football," Richard Morrison writes ... Page 17

Fellini to music; Derived from Federico Fellini's film 84, the musical Nine has been given its British aremierePage 17 Domingo's night: The Ro-

yal Opera's Gold and Silver Gala was a triumph for Placido Domingo, celebrating the 25th anniversary of his Covent Garden

SECTIONS

Hollywood dates... Page 8 Tony Bennett..... Page 16 Easy listening Page 23 The horsey set Page 32 ... Page 42

Weekend

Smart Christians: Alpha road to the Lord Page 1



eshion: Cool leather 3 Gardens: Pots planting ...4 Travel: Polynesia. Cambodia, Caribbean

Tiffany as Cinderella Fun: Great games Smash Hits party



Films: The best on TV from today to the new year Televison: Programmes for two weeks Books: Holiday choice

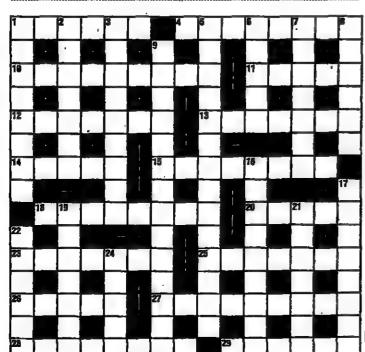
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,351

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries

should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO

Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The winners and solution will

be published next Saturday. Name/Address .



ACROSS

- I The growth of revolutionary
- March (8). 10 Unfriendly air displayed by weatherman (4.5).
- 11 Confused mass with odd bits of that religious work (5).
- 12 Star's blemish given publicity in tabloid? (7). 13 Location for TV show, as opposed
- to live theatre (4,3). 14 Having more points each (5). 15 Holmes booked a table for this
- despot (8). 18 Put obstacle in the way of one form of gambling (8).
- 20 European poet's craft revealed in
- Chinese way (5): 23 Book reviewer who appreciates a
- good reception? (7). 25 Hard-headed Pope who created
- division here? (7). 26 Crack to ruin potter's achieve-
- ment (5). 27 Put on Bizet, missing his first note

- or another composer (9). Solution to Puzzle No 20,345

UPPERMOSIT

28 Present Duke in royal house (4.4).

1 Oil many a fool put in vehicle (8).

2 Gleeman's unusual medley (7).

5 Conversely, where one might reckon to be after five? (2,3,5,4).

6 Wrong letters secretary finally put

7 There's a girl here, staring you in

16 Final letter penned by unortho-

19 Friendly way to address former

22 Money Jack raised kept in for-

24 Credit OK? You've capital in-

Solution to Postle No 20,350

dox educator in part of France

3 Underemphasise what produ

29 Medal for sculpture (6).

piano music? (4-5).

in post, perhaps (5).

9 Get cross in game (8.6).

17 Reduce area of county (8).

21 Pile on the cheese (7).

vested there (5).

the face (7).

head (3.4).

tress (6).

8 Red rag (6).

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AA Car reports by fax

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HOURS OF DARWNESS

3 52 pm Moon sets. London 3 52 pm to 8 00 am Bristol 4 02 pm to 8 09 am Edinburgh 3 38 pm to 8 39 am Manchester 3 49 pm to 8 19 am Percenter 4 20 on to 8 15 am

TOMORROW Sun deep: 800 am Moon sets 10.07 pm London 3 52 pm to 8 91 am Bristol 4 02 pm to 8 10 am

HT:355969125065507458200722847532

HIGH TIDES

HIGHEST & LOWEST

General: most of England and Wales will get off to a frosty start. In the North cloud will thicken and bring some rain or sleet. It will become quite breezy, with temperatures rising in the South. Scotland and Northern Ireland will

have a cloudy, fairly windy day with rain or drizzle at times. Southeast

London, SE England, E Anglis, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles: sunny spells at first, more cloudy later. Wind northwest becoming west, mainly light. Max 7C

Wales, Central N: bright start but becoming more cloudy later. Wind northwest, becoming west light or moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ N Wales, NW England, Lake District, late of Man, SW Scotland Glasgow, N Ireland: mostly cloudy strong. Max 7C (45F).

Contral Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyli, NW Scotland, Orkney: cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain. Wind mainly west, strong or gale. Max 7C (45F). Shetland: periods of rain or sleet.

olc mainly dry in the South

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ABROAD Hetshiu Hong K Invstrei Istartuu Joddah Joddah Larguin L. Palova La Tquet Latton Lanton Lanton

Changes to the chart above from moon, low A will move quickly east with little change; high



Sunny Sunny Cloudy **Drizzie** Overce: Sunny M 4 4 showers Siest and sunny showers 🛖 Lightning (Calsius)



Any weather can be lifeboat weather. Winter is always an extremely demanding time for volunteer lifeboat crews. At any time, day or night, they must be ready to put to sea, it is impossible to predict how many times RNLI lifeboatmen and women will be asked to risk their lives to save other people's lives in the coming months. What is certain, however, is that our creus will always answer the call. Will you help give them the lifeboars, equipment and training they need?

☐ Scotland - 9/12/96 ☐ South Coast - 6/12/96

Stormoway lifehoat hunches twice to two stranded fishing vessels. Interes and Tale, rescuing nine people.

North-East - 8/12/96 The crew of the Berwickupon-Tweed lifebout rush to assist an injured cremman abrard the fishing vessel Alayqueen.

iteboats

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BUSINESS TODAT

Della Re-Al-

the rocks.

Hastings inshore lifeboat

rescues two 15-year-old

youths who are trapped on

INSIDE SECTION TODAY

VI DECEMBER 4 Mg

"Many J. Life"

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RESCUE BULLETIN

AND A STEELEMBER OF

STORE STORE

The said about the



EXECUTIVE VOICE

Global dimension is key to educating business leaders PAGE 24

Monday

Tuesday ∪ ednesday

Thursday

Friday

The publisher who defends the bottom line PAGE 25

WORKING WEEK

SPORT

Bruno's prospects flower as he gains growing acclaim **PAGES 38-44**

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY

PAGE 25

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 1996

Halifax and Nationwide raise mortgage rates

BY ANNE ASHWORTER

MORE than three million homebuyers will be paying more for their mortgages in the new year after announcements of rate rises by both the Halifax and the Nationwide building societies. The Nationwide's move came as a surprise since the society, the second largest, last increased loan rates only a month ago. There will also be savings rate improvements at both societies.

The Halifax, which is raising its

variable mortgage rate 0.26 per cent to

7.25 per cent, is the last big lender to

whether it would follow the example of other banks and building societies, such as the Abbey National and the Woolwich, in amending its rate.

The change will add £7.44 a month to a 25-year £50,000 Halifax repayment mortgage, increasing the monthly repayment to £338.46. The

changes take effect immediately for new borrowers and from January I, 1997, for existing customers.
The Nationwide's variable rate is

react to the 0.25 per cent bank base

rate rise on October 30. Late this

week the society, the UK's largest lender, was still refusing to say

rising from 6.74 per cent to 6.99 per cent, with effect from January 1, 1997. This will add £7.05 to a £50,000 mortgage where the monthly repayment will go up from £326.03 to £333.08. After the increase, the society's mortgage rate remains around a quarter of a per cent below those of its competitors. But the Bradford & Bingley, which also delayed its rate change to this week, has opted for a rate of 6.99 per cent too.

Unlike the Halifax, which intends to become a bank next year, the Nationwide is committed to retaining its traditional mutual status. To make

clear this strategy, the society earlier this year launched a scheme to return £200 million in profits to savers and borrowers in more advantageous rates. These benefits are intended as a substitute for the £1,000 payouts from converting societies.

The Nationwide yesterday denied

that its margins were being put under pressure by its policy on mutuality, saying that this was now the time to put the "focus on savers". Brian Davis, Nationwide's chief executive, said that the society was

beginning to attact deposits from

customers of societies, such as the

left the Abbey National after its takeover of the N&P, with billions more to come next year from the other societies converting. Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, said: "There has been a

National & Provincial, that had already converted to banks. Savings

institutions are now extraordinarily

eager to attract these funds. An estimated 5600 million has already

sharp switch-around from being good to borrowers to being ultra-competitive in the savings market."

Weekend Money, page 27

London

shares

shadow

the Dow

BY JANET BUSH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MORE gyrations on Wall Street yesterday determined the pattern of trading in London, where the FT-SE 100

index of leading shares closed lower again but well above the

The FT-SE closed 18.3 points lower at 3,972.4 but had traded as low as 3,933. The recovery

came as Wall Street regained its poise after another opening

The Dow Jones industrial average slumped 50 points at

the outset, only to surge to a

plus of 40 points. In early

afternoon trading, the Dow was holding on to modest

ns. Trading was extreme

volatile as computerised "buy

and "sell" programs pulled the

So erratic were the swings in trading that the New York

Stock Exchange imposed lim-

its on program trading and then lifted them again in the

a little higher to end at 93.2 on

its effective index against a

basket of currencies. This

space of seven minutes. In London, the pound edged

day's worst levels.

Lang gives blessing to US bid for Northern

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

THE Government cleared the way yesterday for CE Electric's £782 million hostile bid for Northern Electric and ignited a bitter fight between ie two as a number of shareholders rallied to Northern's support.

Doubts had hung over the bid because of the credit rating. of CalEnergy, CE's main shareholder, but Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said sufficient financial assurances had been given bythe company, which carries a junk-rating in the US.

The decision not to refer CE's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission caused the shares to leap 40p, to 642p, just 8p short of the offer price of 650p. But the Prudential, Britain's biggest investment institution, realfirmed its support of Northern and complained that the bid was too low. It has a 11.5 per

cent stake in Northern. The head of Northern Electric's small shareholders warned that the bid should be resisted because it would mark the end of regional electricity companies under the structure established when the electricity industry was privatised. Chris Foote-Wood,

BUSINESS.

New York:

London

TODAY

1.5455* (1.5410) 5.2160* (5.2135) 1.3165* (1.3110) 113.78* (113.18) 96.1 (97.9)

Tokyo clase Yen 113.06

Brent 15-day (Feb) \$22.55 (\$22.10)

chairman of the shareholders' group, said: "It cannot be in our national interest to have our vital utilities in foreign ownership. The original idea was to have 12 independent companies, which could be compared with each other. Small shareholders hold about 17 per cent of the equity and their decisions could be pivotal to CE's success. The bid closes next week. If CE is successful Northern will be the fourth regional electricity company to be US-

owned, with a fifth — East Midlands — expected to follow after a bid by Dominion Resources. The shares of the remaining independent companies not currently the subject of bids rose yesterday — Southern by 27p to 7742p, London 28p to 6792p, and Yorkshire 132p to 756p. London has been in bid talks with Entergy of the US, which broke down, but some analysts are predicting a return by

Entergy for any of the three.

John Battle, the Shadow Energy and Industry Minister, said: "It is important that the liberalisation of our energy markets is reciprocated abroad. That is why Labour is making a priority of complet-ing a single European energy market and we should be negotiating for greater access American markets." The US is not open to competition

in its energy markets.

David Sokol, chairman and chief executive of CE, said: The decision for shareholders now crystal clear." Northern's promises asked investors to wait for an uncertain future, while "CE Electric's final offer of 650p per ordinary share is real and

certain today", he said. David Morris, chairman of Northern Electric, welcomed the decision not to refer the bid. He said: "CE Electric chose to declare its offer final before the release of our key information. It now finds itself in the uncomfortable position of trying to persuade our shareholders to give up almost El per share in dividends over the next nine months, and to forgo a prospective 1997-98 yield of over 10.5 per cent."

Tempus. page 26 | European Court.



Peter Lawrence, chairman of Lawrence, the animal health and pet care company, reported an increase in interim pre-tax profits to £985,000 (£820,000). The dividend is 1.65p (1.5p)

Saunders 'fair trial' ruling due from European Court

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE European Court of Hu-man Rights will rule on Tuesday whether Ernest Saunders was denied the right to a fair trial in the aftermath of the Guinness Affair.

Mr Saunders, chairman of Guinness during the £2.7 bil-lion takeover bid for Distillers in 1986, could be entitled to compensation from the Government if his claim is upheld. He was sentenced to five years for his part in an alleged sharesupport operation, but released grounds. The outcome will be watched with interest by Gerald Ronson, Anthony Parnes and Jack Lyons, co-defendants in the first Guinness trial, who have cases pending in the

Events gathered pace in September 1994 when the European Commission ruled that Mr Saunders's trial had been unfair. The commission found that the use at his trial of interviews with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) inspectors, during which he was legally obliged to answer questions, violated the European Convention on

Human Rights. The case was referred to the European Court, which sat in

It is thought that the European Court will criticise the use of DTI inspectors in collecting evidence. However, they may take the view that the Guinness prosecution would have succeeded even

without the DTI transcripts, mirroring an earlier Court of

Appeal ruling in London. It emerged yesterday that the DTI inspectors have yet to complete their report into the Guinness Affair, in spite of speculation that publication was imminent. The Government may decide not to publish the findings. The inspectors, David Donaldson. OC, and Ian Watt, are thought to be highly critical of several leading City figures involved with the Distillers bid.

Guinness secretly indemnified a series of financial backers against potential losses incurred in buying Guinness shares, and rewarded them with £25 million in "success fees" and commissions.

Golden parachutes at Wickes

BILL GRIMSEY and Bill Hoskins, the new chief executive and finance director of Wickes, the DIY group whose market value was wiped out by accounting irregularities, have been given golden parachutes worth at least £200,000 each to protect them against a bid for the In addition the two directors are to be

granted share options worth £1.26 million. Mr Grimsey said on Thursday that Wickes had received a number of bid approaches, though none had yet turned into a formal offer. The listing particulars

that go with Wickes's £53.2 million rescue rights issue show Mr Grimsey and Mr Hoskins have service contracts paying them £230,000 and £190,000 respectively. In addition, they are to receive a bonus for work on the restructuring of the company of £115,000 and £100,000 each. However, if a bidder buys more than three quarters of Wickes's shares before the end of next August and fires either director within 12 months of taking over, these payments would be doubled.

These golden parachutes come on top

of the £3.5 million in fees, mainly to SBC

Warburg, merchant bankers, incurred in

the restructuring. Mr Grimsey and Mr

Mr Hoskins has a similar deal worth The listing document reveals some of the unusual arrangements between the

share option packages. Mr Grimsey will have options over £670,000 of Wickes

shares, with the prices determined by the

trading of Wickes shares when they are

relisted after the rights issue goes though.

company and its directors in the past. Two former non-executive directors, Lord Sieff and Peter Humphries, are receiving pensions of £12,000 a year as part of an arrangement that has been terminated for any new board members.

WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth on spiced-up pension facts

INVESTMENT 1

Ups and downs? Prospects for shares in 1997



How car insurers can hold you to ransom

INVESTMENT 2

Cards are not just for

Christmas Manager

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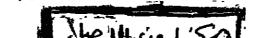
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Global dimension is the key to educating business chiefs

مكذا عن الاصل

That has been the most significant organisational change at Westminster during the years of the present Government? Some would say it was when John Major appointed Michael Heseltine as a Deputy Prime Minister with a new portfolio. I think I would point to another reorganisation that took place at the same time. When the Prime Minister was relaunching his administration after the challenge to his leadership, he merged the departments of education and employment.

The creation of the new joint department, under Gillian Shephard, reflected the concern of all politicians today that British economic growth is still being held back by inadequacies of the education system. Successful employment is largely a function

What is sometimes forgotten is programme which bears his that this applies up and down the whole educational scale. It is more than just getting back to basics in primary schools. Economic success depends very largely on the educational calibre of the brightest of today's young people who will move into the boardrooms of the 21st century.

Education is always about broadening horizons. The higher up the educational scale, the more important it is to think in global terms. No great enterprise nowadays gets very far if the vision of its top management stops at national boundaries.

One man who had a prophetic grasp of the global dimension of education, half a century ago, was Senator J. William Fulbright, an outstanding statesman of the immediate postwar period whose enduring monument is the postgraduate awards

name. With memories of his own days at Oxford, he believed in excellence in education and in the benefits of two-way educational exchanges between America and other parts of the world.

The Fulbright programme has always sought to lay down markers for the future. Today the programme is being strengthened in a way that will have a powerful impact on the calibre of tomorrow's boardrooms.

In the past, many Fulbright scholars went into public service or academia. The new programme puts greater emphasis on potential business leaders. This year a significant proportion of Fulbright Awards are being sponsored by businesses, among them BAT Industries, Marks & Spencer and Citibank. This substantially increases

the funding available to provide

EXECUTIVE

Leigh

for postgraduate exchanges and is in line with the overall shift away from public funding which is taking place in all societies today. But as important as the funding will be the injection of business ethos to the Fulbright

open the eyes of the young elite to volved. It will send out an the exciting opportunities that important message about Brit-

exist in business management. Sponsors will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping to perpetuate the Fulbright dream of providing an international understanding through the highest standards in education. But that is not all; there is also a practical potential henefit. By keeping in touch with the students they sponsor, and possibly arranging "internship" for them, sponsoring companies have the opportunity to recruit outstanding candidates to their staff. As Charles McVeigh, chairman of another of the sponsors, Salomon Brothers International, has said: "It's terribly simple. It's enlightened self-interest."

The impact of these sponsored awards on the British business world will be much greater. I believe, than the numbers in-

ain's commitment to creating and attracting the brightest and best. Many talented young people today go into business, but the plain fact is that industry and commerce need still greater access to the best brains available. There is no room for

complacency about national atti-

tudes to education, at all levels,

from the elementary stages to the

best of postgraduate work. The sponsored Fulbright Awards, as more and more sponsors come forward - from industry, from commerce, from City institutions and elsewhere — will help to channel intellec-tual quality where it is needed. When the business world in-volves itself sensibly in the

stantly reappraise the way we educate our elite. ☐ Sir Geoffrey Leigh, chairman education system, it represents of Allied London Properties, is chairman of the Fulbright Advan incentive to educators, not a curb on their freedom. It is a

in a fiercely competitive world.

continental Europe, in America

and in the Pacific Rim have more

in common than they have

dividing them. That is why the

education of business leaders has

to incorporate the international dimension. The best of British

managers need opportunities to

do their MBA at a US university

- and vice-versa. In education as

in business, talent is a scarce

resource. Business people know

that one of the most important

keys to success is identifying the

best way to allocate finite re-

sources. It is important to con-

Businesses in the UK, in



TOURIST RATES

CTR reverses first-half loss

Central Transport Rental, the old Tiphook transport group, made a first-half pre-tax profit of £10.7 million against £12.8 million losses last time. Debts of £236 million re-mained at October 31. There is no dividend.

H&H higher

Hardys & Hansons, the Nottingham brewer, announced pre-tax profits of E8.27 million (£3.05 million) for the year to October 4. The final dividend is 6.8p (6.4p).

Ladbroke loses

An out-of-court settlement with the landlord of the Paris Hilton over rent payments will cost Ladbroke £16 million, the betting, gaming and property group said yesterday.

Burnfield buys

Burnsleid, the engineering group, has moved into vibration testing with the £24 million acquisition of LDS, a privately owned electromag-

R-R threat to halve jobs at Tyneside turbine subsidiary

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

NEARLY half the workforce of sales or plant closures. The Parsons, Rolls-Royce's powergeneration subsidiary, may be

Rolls-Royce, which has put Parsons up for sale, said it would make 400 people redundant early in the new year because of falling orders and could follow those cuts with another 400 losses depending on current sales negotiations.

Parsons, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, makes turbines and other power equipment. It was put up for saic in July, along with International Combustion, another Rolls-Royce subsidiary in Derby. Then Rolls-Royce said it wanted to withdraw from the steam power-generation business. It said that it would quit the industry either through

company says it is in discussion with a handful of potential bidders for both subsidiaries but the protracted talks and job cuts underline the difficulty it is having in striking an agreement.

While Rolls-Royce and union sources are optimistic about a sale it is by no means clear that the subsidiaries will survive in their present form. It could be that potential buyers are attracted by a breakup of operations.

Job cuts had to come now at Parsons, said Rolls-Royce, because it was becoming uneconomic to maintain a staff of 1,700 with declining work-loads. The 400 losses will come at the end of January. Peter Barnes-Wallis, spokesman for Rolls-Royce, said that a decision on future cuts would be made by the end of the first quarter in 1997. By then the company also hopes to have clinched a sale.

The redundancies, condemned by the unions for being announced so close to Christmas, were signalled last month when preliminary no-tices in the redundancy procedure were issued. The notices meant that there was the potential for everyone to be made redundant if no buyer was found and the plant was

The unions, while accepting the potential for wholesale job losses if a sale cannot be agreed, said that much effort had been put into cost



Chainsaw gang: Barry Gamble, chairman and chief executive of Fountain Forestry, which will be valued at £6.6 million when it joins the Alternative Investment Market

Zetters plans bingo expansion

By Ketth Rodgers

ZETTERS Group, the football pools operator, is planning a further acquisition in the bingo field after completing its £6.5 million purchase of three

leisure clubs earlier this week. The company has also ended its contributions to the Foundation for Sports and the received almost 5 per cent of its pools turnover, and will use the proceeds to Pools turnover fell 28 per cent in the six months to September 30 as the National Lottery continued to take its toll.

Yesterday, the company reported a fall in interim pre-tax profits, from £593,000 to £511,000, on turnover down from £10.54 million to £7.56 million. The interim dividend remains 5p per share, payable include 26 weekly pools com-petitions, against 27 in the

Paul Zetter, chairman, said he was "extremely confident about the bingo business. which Zetters has re-entered after eight years. Following the purchase of three clubs from Leisure Workshop, Leslie Hurst, chief executive of its bingo subsidiary Jasmine, and Robert Upsdell, non-execthe Zetters board. Mr Hurst

will take over as chief execu-

tive of Zetters when James

THE SUNDAY TIMES

In the City, Christmas really is a time for giving, with the high-flyers looking forward to multimillion pound bonuses after a record year in

> Business, The Sunda Times tomorrow

the financial

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

The views of David Morris, Chairman of Northern Electric, on the bid from CE Electric can be heard on the freephone number below.

FREEPHONE 0800 771177

Shareholders should note that if CE Electric's ordinary offer becomes unconditional as to acceptances, the offer must remain open for acceptance at least until Friday, 3 January, 1997.

is acting for Northern Electric and no one else in connection with the offer and will not be responsible to

Registered Office: Carliol House, Market Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 GNE

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The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)



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A WORKING WEEK FOR: TIM HELY HUTCHINSON

Defender of profits and the popular novel

Martin Waller meets a publisher unafraid to ruffle the feathers of his rivals or to take aim at their destructive literary snobbishness

6 There is

no such thing

as a bad

popular

novel 🤊

Fuesday ∪

Monday are delightful places. where erudition and culture rub shoulders with a certain faded Bohemianism. Oak shelves are filled with precious first editions in rooms bursting

with comfortable, worn sofas into which tweedy old buffers sink clutching cups of China tea. The background trill is from delightful debutantes who have chosen, in those few years between finishing school and a good marriage, to devote themselves to fine literature.

Such is the public perception. The head office of Hodder Headline, Britain's bigest independent publisher, is a particularly brutal, security conscious office block at he nastier, more traffic-bound end of the Euston Road. The shelves are glearning white metal — everything in the building is, for that matter. Even the lift looks like it belongs in a 1950s science-fiction movie. Prominent in the reception area is a dumpbin of the ocurre of Paul and Pauline Calf, the foul-mouthed fictional alter egos of the comedian Steve Coogan. Guaranteed bad language and filth, it says on the cover.

Something is clearly wrong.
Tim Hely Hutchinson, chief executive,

is not much-loved among the tweedy set, and the feeling is reciprocated. publisher as a business, with the intention of maximising profit. He is probably the most prominant of the new breed of publishers, for whom the bottom line is more important than the Booker Prize. He is also known

in the trade, wrongly, as the man who single-handedly broke the Net Book Agreement, the cosy cartel that fixed the price of books for so long.

"Publishing went through a very incompetent phase in the 1950s and 1960s. If you look back over the correspondence and history of the house of Macmillan. where I started in publishing, it is very clear that the people who ran it were absolutely on top of the size of the business. They were both bookish and businesslike.

But some publishers grew beyond the grip of one individual — that's where the breakdown came. Some of the people who took over were apeing some of the aspects of their predecessors, but they were founders had."

Hodder was formed by the 1993 merger of 125-year-old Flodder & Stoughton, one of publishing's blue bloods, with Hely Hutchinson's own Headline, which he founded in 1986 and took to the stock market five years later. Then it was valued at £11 million; three years after the merger, and a few injections of shareholders' cash, the group is worth £77 million.

There have been rumblings in the trade press about the brutal way in which some of the Hodder people were dispatched. Hely Hutchinson says this was done in a generous and civilised way, but says changes were needed at Hodder.

"Fiction is very much a big publishers" game, because of the potential of some authors to require considerable investment. In order to compete with other leading fiction publishers, you have to be able to market your book in every supermarket, every airport, in the territories for which you are responsible. You have to be very comfortable with dealing with retailers who have the option of putting broccoli where your book is going. Tweedy gentlemen are not very good at

switched from the poultry the day before. Oh, those tweedy gentlemen. If you were writing the novel of Hely Hutchinson's life, he would have to come up from humble origins driven by ambition and a huge chip on his shoulder. In fact his father, now chairman of the company, is the Earl of Donoughmore and he comes to publishing via Eton and Magdalen,

dealing with a person who may have been

Oxford. So much for stereotypes. He describes himself as "a jack-of-all trades, running a company which in some ways could be any sort of business — it's about money, buildings and people.

"Probably the most important part of my job is that I try to lead the publishing strategy. I can't make all the decisions myself, in terms of reading manuscripts.

seeing authors, and suggesting marketing initiatives." This requires meeting the publishers sions of Hodder Headline, fiction, children's books, whatever, at least twice a month and thrashing out what sort of books should be produced. Hely Hutchinson has his own small per-

sonal stable of authors, mainly the bestsellers such as John le Carré, and his publishers are encouraged to send up to him anything that particularly excites

The latest discovery is one Jenn Crowell, a 17-year-old American, whose Necessary Madness, a novel of modern relationships, is published in the spring.
The author will tour — in between her exams," he says drily.

It is a curious, magpie business, publishing. Although a firm as big as Hodder Headline has a defined list of fiction, the mainstay of the business, which attempts to ensure the various sub-categories and genres are covered, there is no accounting for the serendicitous outsider. Take Watership Down - not a Hodder Headline book. Publishers were not exactly falling over themselves two decades ago to sign up a book about talking rabbits. Now there is an entire sub-genre of talking hadgers, talking foxes...
One of Hely Hutchinson's biggest

authors is Ellis Peters, whose Brother Cadfael books about a 12th century monk have been televised. The author only ever had one unsuccessful paperback sale before he took her on. The books were detective stories, but also historical novels. As the latter is not a sufficiently



Tim Hely Hutchinson is probably the most prominent of the new breed of publishers for whom the bottom line is more important than the Booker Prize

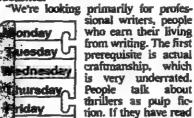
defined genre, the book had to be marketed as the former - except for all that

"I was saying, these are very good books and they deserve a paperback publisher. We were heading down a blind alley, tempted to downplay the medieval atmosphere — then along came Umberto Eco and The Name of the Rose, and we suddenly realised that was the unique selling point, not a problem to bury." There is now, naturally, an entire subgenre of historical detective

The story illustrates how the fortunes of a book can be transformed both by luck and by good-marketing. But there is little that can be done without the books to sell The public perception is that the perfect author is one who explodes like a starshell, selling millions of his or her first book and then retiring to Barbados for all the publisher cares. Not so, he says; consistency of product and a long career can be as important, which is why authors are

signed on multi-book deals. "The publicity spend will very seldom be justified by the sale of one book. You can only justify it by building a brand." Given that launching a potential bestseller can cost up to £1 million in total. including the author's slice, this is hardly

surprising. The payback comes from subsequent books, if the writer takes off, backlist of titles already



as many thrillers badly done as people in this building, they wouldn't call it that. Then you

at something else on top. Some writers come to the end of their over the publishing phenomenon that is themselves," Hely Hutchinson says drily.

road, having written all they can - comic novelists are particularly prone to this, because jokes tend not to bear repeating. Sometimes a divorce is necessary.

"It's very, very rare to cancel a contract it's something that's frowned upon here. It's more likely that towards the end of the contract you don't renew."

But what if that writer than goes on to find success with another publisher? "I've lived in fear of it," he says, "but I've never seen somebody we've let go climb into the bestseller list for somebody else."

He claims there is no such thing as a bad popular novel. "It's almost a tautology - it has to have some appealing eleecial attraction to the reading public." At this stage we pass gently Jeffrey Archer. Hely Hutchinson persists: "In the 1960s and 1970s, and probably into the 1980s, there was this perception of an extremely sharp divide between commercial fiction and literary fiction.

*Literary snobbishness is destructive. The fact is that every single novel that has survived, that is a classic, was written by a popular novelist. It's not in our culture here to be snobbish. We're really trying to find books the public will like. The biggest competition is getting good authors in the first place.

So, thus encouraged, your budding author makes it alive across the Euston Road traffic with the precious manuscript. helps if somebody's first novel is not about

THE WASSERS

Scarcroft Lodge provides all the creature comforts

Privatised utility, multi-national manufacturer, specialist services boutique ... whatever you are, there is a certain flush of pride to be found in being able, at industry dinners, to drop the names of the listed buildings that nestle fetchingly among your assets. Being able to name a fullblown country house as your corporate headquarters is

In this, Yorkshire Electricity is lucky. All round, in fact, the board members of the company have had it pretty good since privatisation.

Their only concern on the distant horizon seems to be the vague threat of competition. But its senior executives can console themselves with the thought that they have heritage on their side in the form of a listed country house as their headquarters. Yorkshire Electricity's Scarcroft Lodge is a fine

Joanna Pitman delves into the past of Yorkshire Electricity's headquarters

Georgian mansion built by a Quaker stuff merchant (wool merchant) called Newman Cash, who came to Leeds from Coventry in 1815 and found that his business flourished once he had be-

gun trading with America.

By 1826 the successful Mr
Cash had decided the time
had come to establish humself properly, with an appropriate estate. He bought an extensive tract of land on Scarcroft outside Leeds, and by 1830 he had created a handsome pillared mansion of an appro-priate grandeur to establish himself socially.

bought by Robert Tennant, a successful Leeds solicitor and a captain of the Yorkshire Hussars. He increased

the size of the estate, created

an ornamental lake and

enlarged the house. The Earl of Mexborough bought it in 1888, carried out installed his daughter, Lady Mary Savile, in residence. Lady Mary converted the picture gallery into a ball-room and also had a small private Catholic chapel built

in the clock tower. the 1920s, Albert Braithwaite, a former mayor of Leeds, moved in He modernised the building improved the grounds and installed a grand stained glass window bearing arms and motto of the

Braithwaite family.

Mr. Braithwaite sold Scarcroft Lodge in 1938 to a

oner had Mr Philipson bought it than the building was requisitioned for use as

a convalescent hospital. After the war he sold the estate to the Yorkshire Electric Power Company. When the electricity supply indus-try was nationalised in 1948, the estate passed to the Yorkshire Electricity Board, which continued to use it as its headquarters.

During the 1950s, YEB extended the house, building a canteen and new offices on courtyard, and a new office block to occupy half of the old Italian garden. In the 1970s it added a purposebuilt office block.

Over the years the focus of YEB's office requirements drifted to its newer buildings and the original lodge be-came neglected. But when Scarcroft Lodge was named a Grade II listed building in 1975, attention was diverted back to the 1830s building and YEB instigated repairs and renovation. Conference facilities have

heen installed, and with privatisation and the resulting centralisation of personne nore office accom has been created. The relisted Lodge was reopened in 1993. Graham Hall, group executive director, is triumphant in

his stewardship of a listed country house. He also points out that the fireplace from the natiroom has found its way to the Victoria & Albert Museum. You can be fairly sure that Scarcroft Lodge will not be neglected again under its

Northern Electric Shareholders



CE Electric's final* offer deadline is 1.00pm on Friday 20th December.

Because of Christmas post delays, we suggest that if you are posting your forms of acceptance you do so at least 3-4 days before the close of the final offer. If you have any questions about completing the forms call

0117 975 1595



CE Electric UK plc

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Mystery buyers put CU back in the limelight

COMMERCIAL UNION, a favourite takeover candidate, was one of only 21 constituents of the FT-SE 100 index to rise yesterday after one investor paid over the odds for a large line of shares, prompting another flurry of speculative

By the close of business the price had climbed 21p to 665p in a falling market and now stands just 1212p below its peak for the year. In late trade on Thursday another investor paid 5p over the ruling market price at that time for a line of 250,000 shares.

This sparked suggestions that a potential bidder had begun building up a stake in the company just prior to making a move. The same old names were doing the rounds with Allianz, the German insurer. leading a pack that also included BAT Industries. down 3p at 4901 ap.

In the past Allianz has always refused to comment on market speculation. A total of 5.22 million shares had changed hands by the close.

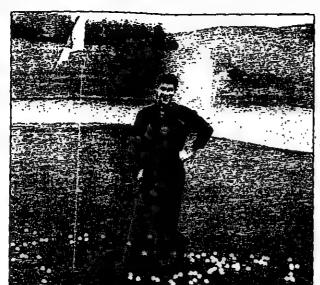
Other insurers lost ground along with the rest of the market. General Accident finished 1212p down at 688p, Guardian Royal Exchange 4p at 26lp, and Royal Sun Alliance 512p at 42512p. But among the insurance brokers Sedgwick put on 512p at 12612p amid talk that a bid might be on the way.

Elsewhere share prices spent another nervous day in the wake of a near 100-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average and volatility on

Far East markets overnight.
At one stage the FT-SE 100 index plunged 56.8 anxiously awaiting the start of trading again in New York. Early indications suggested

a further shakeout for the Dow of around 70 points. In the event, Wall Street tumbled more than 50 points in early trading, but quickly rebounded into positive territory by the time London closed. The FT-SE 100 eventually saw its deficit cut to just 18.3 at 3,972.4. a rise on the week of 9.4.

Selling pressure was easily contained with just 624 million shares changing hands. Northern Electric source 391ap to 642p after the Government decided against referring the bid from ČE Electric, the American power com-pany, to the Monopolies & Mergers Commission. Northern responded by continuing



Sean Kelly of PGA ETC, steady at 6p, nets BA deal

the increased offer, worth 650p a share. It drew comparisons with the recent offer for East Midlauds Electricity, worth 745p a share, and complained that the terms from CE undervalues the business. Northern has already promised its shareholders dividends totalling almost £1 if it retains its independence. East Midlands also climbed

at 370p. They have been replaced by Mercury Asset Management, down 9p at £12.7211, and Hays, 3p firmer at 53712p.

Matthew Hall is another casualty of this week's reshuffle of the constituents, having lost its place among the top 250. It finished 101ap down at

Orange, the mobile tele-

Keep an eye on Bradstock Group, the insurance and reinsurance broker, which has begun climbing off the bottom after seeing 54p. The price firmed '2p to 61'2p yesterday in heavy turnover of 337,842 shares. Not bad considering marketmakers will normally only make a price in 10,000 at a time.

30p to 65612p, almost matching the terms of 670p a share being offered by Dominion Resources. But the rest of the Recs also went better on learning of the Government's decision. London Electricity put on 28p at 67912p, Southern 27p at 77412p and York-

shire 13120 at 7560. Pilkington rallied Ip to 1450 after losing its place this week as a constituent of the top 100 companies along with

phone operator, added 2120 at (8) p. Increases to the tariffs for callers using BT lines connecting with Orange and One-2-One are expected to provide a substantial boost to revenues. BT rose 3'ap to 390'ap.

PGA European Tour Courses, steady at 6p, has signed a marketing agreement with British Airways offering its 500,000 Executive Club members 18 months membership of its own Internationa Courtanids, another 3p lower Tour Club for the price of a

MOVERS OF THE WEEK			
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Club offers playing rights at seven leading golf courses across Europe with a 30 per cent discount thrown in. Sean Kelly, managing director, said British Airways was an ideal

PGA ETC owns Quinto do Lago in Portugal, Port-marnock in Ireland and Collingtree Park in this country. Speculation in the City suggests PGA ETC may be one of the front runners bidding for Clubpartners, the AIM-listed leisure group. Shares of Clubpartners fell 4p to 712p yesterday after warn-ing that all the offers received had been pitched at a discount to the ruling market price. This follows the failure of Clubpartners to acquire The Drift Golf Club. At these levels Clubpartners is valued at £3.16 million

A boardroom bust-up failed to undermine British Building & Engineering, un-changed at 4312p. Robert-Paine, chairman, has been asked to leave the company because of irreconcilable differences with the rest of the board, John Jessop, a non executive director, will take over as chairman until a permanent successor is

RJB Mining clawed back a rise of 27p at 425p as brokers took the view that the selling had been overdone after BZW. the company's own broker, had lopped a hefty £40 million from its forecast for 1997. GILT-EDGED: After trading sideways for much of the

day bond prices around Europe put in a late spurt, cheered by the news that the European Union Ministers meeting in Dublin had agreed final details of the EMU stability pact.

Prices in London closed near the best of the day with the highest gains recorded In futures the March series

of the long gilt closed E*16 higher at £109132 as the total number of contracts traded rose to 59,000. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on Eº16 at £1023a while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks firmer at

□ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street were buffered by a rapid series of program trades and by midday were mixed, with the Dow Jones industrial

MACON MODICES
New York (midday): Dow Jones 6312.94 (49.23) S&P Composite 728.23 (-1.10)
Tokyo: Nikkel Average
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Arnsterdarn: 606.65 (-4.76)
Sydney: 2316.5 (-23.1)
Frankfurt DAX
Singapore: 2179.14 (-3.41)
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Paris
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TeleWest is not out of the

IEMPUS

Short-circuited bid

CE ELECTRIC has won over lan Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and in so doing has removed any coherence left in government competition policy. Will Northern Electric investors he so easily bowled over? With only one week left of the offer period, the battle will be hard fought.

Northern will rely on its promised special dividends and a defence package promising a lift in 1998's dividend and a supply-side tie-up with another regional electricity company. It will further argue that CE Electric had relied on real market fears of referral to offer a price that undervalues Northern.

Both bidder and target have been arming es. Northern appears to have the of at least two major institutions and ntial proportion of small sharehold-lectric holds just under 30 per cent of

the shares and has acceptances for another four per cent. It will argue that Northern is still a risky stock; threatened by Labour's windfall tax and and a quixotic regulator. The votes of small investors who own about

20 per cent of the company could be decisive. Many are loyal to Northern by dim of local association and will add an interesting dynamic to the battle, as Northern cannot put too much faith in hearts over wallets. Moreover, the electricity sector has been a playground for risk arbitrage funds, speculating on bids. Such short term players are likely to sell into any sign of share price strength.

Northern can claim it has delivered value, having paid out more than £5 per share in dividends since 1994 with £2.50 promised to the year 2000. But there is little doubt that without bids, the sector has a dull outlook.

subsidised, poorly managed

sh Airways

of "shame" greeted ' Airways when HM nent waved through the proposed the up with American Airlines. The con-ditions attached — the disposal of 168 slots — were so meagre that BA will barely suffer at all. The airline can offer up any slot as long as it is capable of being used by a transatlantic carrier and BA could end up franchising some of its routes.

Predictably, other airlines bluster and BA still has the American regulators to contend with. Yet, it would be bizarre for the Americans to attempt to halt consolidation in this fragmented industry. Indeed, they started the process, and only last week the US arrline industry was agog with talk of a much bigger merger. Delta and Continen-

tal, the third and fifth largest and with few barriers to carriers, are said to be conentry. There is no shortage of sidering — a combination that would create the world's tycoons prepared to risk it all on an ageing 747 In order to biggest airline. Such a deal would create a monster with sell us discounted tickets to \$18 billion in revenues, but Miami. The public interest would both parties have opposed the BA/American tie-up. The truth is that air trans-

be better served by more aggressive health and safety regulation and less commer port, for all its glamour and technology, is still heavily cial interference.



Cable

THE CABLE industry has turned into a two-horse race. Taking the inside lane is Cable and Wireless Communications, a group that is to be created early next year by the four-way merger of Communications, C&W, and the ll CableMedia and cable companies. the largest single pany, with 4.5 milin its net.

WC is the front-runner in race for profitability. ing Nynex, Bell and cotron together will create ngs and give CWC conrable clout to negotiate per deals with pronme suppliers. Mercury. inwhile, can dip into the le companies for extra mue by selling their cusers international phone

sistance. Buying, or merging with, one or more of the few remaining cable companies will probably be its first move. International CableTel, General, which is: publicly traded, Comcast, Diamond and KPN are all candidates. General, recently in talks with TeleWest, is the most attractive.Investors should either wait to buy

CWC shares or take a punt on General. It will take time before TeleWest puts together enough pieces to form a coherent strategy. Stock Exchange IF THERE ever was a reason for the Stort

the Stock Exchange to

switch from a trading system

based on rival price quota-

tions to one that is order driv-

en, it has faded into obscurity

as rapidly as Tradepoint, Throgmorton Street's supposedly terrifying new rival. The latest draft rules for

the new system, due in Octo-

lucrative privileges lightly. Publication delays, left tactfully vague before, should still allow any £1 million principal deal to be delayed an hour - and further. though unspecified, concessions for big block trades and the like will remain.

This is politically incorrect and will raise the usual howls from self-interested disclosure purists. But it looks like common sense: there is a tension between transparency and liquidity. It should also pass muster with the Securities and Investments Board, since it will at least maintain the much sharper discibsure standards brought in after SIB's equity

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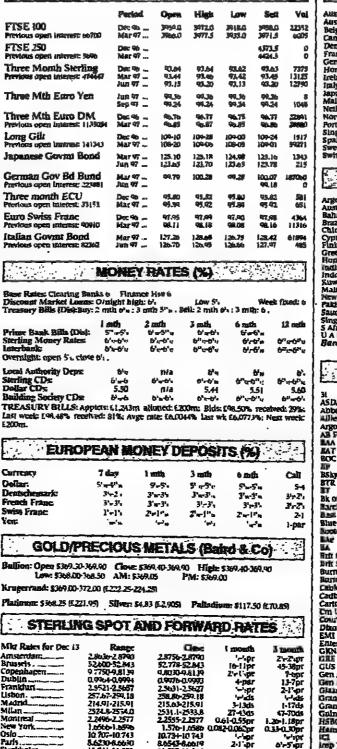
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In post-revolutionary Britain, some people now also realise how daft it is, in the name of pure theory, to give up London's liquidity advantages over continental bourses that are panting to take its business.

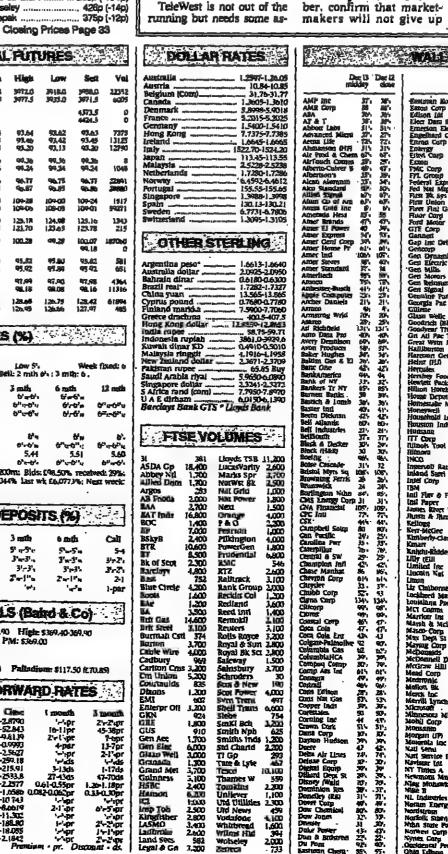
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FISE INDEX (2003)



LONDON FINANCIAL PUTURES



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THE AMERICAN WAY

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DECOR-AUCTIONS 29

Some ghosts of Christmas past under the hammer

WEEKEND

HAPPY RETURNS 30

A revival for the private rental market



THE STATES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Analysts see smoother ride in long term

Marianne Curphey and Caroline Merrell on whether the FT-SE's

bull run is over and the prospects for the UK stock market in 1997



nvestors continued to suffer a rollercoaster ride on the London stock market yesterday as leading shares showed another unexpected fall.

Once again, jitters on Wall Street were to blame. Billions were wiped off the UK market's value as shares in blue-chip companies fell, dragging down the FT-SE 100 index 18 points to 3,979.4, after having been down nearly 57 points at lunchtime. The initial fall prompted fears that the marset was about to see a repeat of the 185-point crash of a week

Among the casualties were the banking and pharmaceuti-cal sectors. HSBC fell 14p to £12.32½, Barclays fell 25p to £10.02½, and Zeneca was down 10p to £16.0712.

the volatility is short-term and growth in the UK stock market should continue next year. Anyone who invested in the UK stock market at the beginning of the year would have found their fortunes inexprably linked to the state of mind of Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve. His warnings a week ago about the dangers of "irrational exuberance" in pushing share prices ever higher sent stock markets plunging amid fears that US

interest rates would rise. However, the FT-SE 100 recovered ground this week. At the start of this year, it was hovering around 3,689, and for the first half of the year the market showed little movement. Again it was taking the lead from Wall Street. Until July, there was a very real fear that the US would need an interest rate rise, but when the threat diminished the US and UK markets took off. Both broke records. The FT-SE 100 peaked on October 21 at 4.073 before falling to its current

For UK investors with their

money in a mix of the biggest UK companies, this represents a one-year return of 6.8 per cent, lower than the 10 per cent rise seen in the market in 1995. Justin Urouhart Stewart, of Barclays stockbrokers, believes there were three significant changes in 1996: a change in the UK market's attitude to railways and transport, the end of the Government's privatisation campaign, and peo-ple's realisation that they

could no longer rely on the

The first led to the successful privatisation of Railtrack and the market's enthusiasm for Stageouach, the bus and train company. The second resulted in the rise in the share price of British Energy. the last privatisation before the general election next year. The third meant that individual investors began to take a greater interest in saving for their old age. Schroders, the investment

State in their old age. their bigger rivals over the 12 months. Bridget Cleverly, head of marketing, said: "Growth stocks have definitely outperformed. The recent jitters have been caused by the US market being overvalued. Although this volatility will continue, from an economic point of view the UK is healthy. UK companies are

She believes that because UK pension funds have sold equities and increased their cash holdings, they will use any fall in the market as a

house, said that smaller com-

panies had done better than

buying opportunity to pick up shares at bargain prices. She predicts that the UK market will end next year at around

Roger Cornick, sales director at Perpetual, also thinks that the FT-SE 100 will hit the 4,350 level by the end of 1997. The sectors he favours include the pharmaceutical companies and financial companies, both of which fell yesterday but which many analysts believe offer the best opportunities for

armaceuticals have historically performed well even during periods of political instamakes them a good defensive stock in a general election

Many observers believe the City has accepted the possibility of a Labour government, and built that into the price of shares. John Hatherly, M&G head of research, said; "Gordon Brown could be even more determined to keep down inflation."

However, Mr Urquhart Stewart believes the City will become increasingly nervous about a windfall tax on utility companies as the general election looms. Once the election is over, interest rates will rise no matter which party is running the country, he says. He predicts further consolidation in the telecoms and media sectors, and says that although retailers will have a good Christmas any increases in profit margins may not be sustainable

throughout the rest of 1997. At BZW, Steve Wright, UK equity strategist, names Stagecoach, up 124 per cent on the year, as the best stock of 1996 and expects its growth to



ALLIANCE & LEICESTER CONVERSION

embers of the Alliance & Lelcester Building Society have this week voted overwhelmingly in favour of the conversion proposals. As with other societies that have opted were in favour of the proposal:

The society aims to float by April. Each qualifying member will get 250 shares worth about £1,000, depending on the stock market conditions at the time of the flotation. In order to qualify for the shares, saving members must ensure that they keep their accounts open until liotation, while borrowing members must ensure they have at least £100 worth of debt with the society.

However, the society, under Peter White, chief executive, still says the flotation could be delayed by proposals in the Building Societies Bill relating to societies five-year protection from takeover. Under current proposals, it would only take a shareholder or shareholders holding 10 per cent of the capital to force the five-year protection to be dropped. This could then lead to a full takeover. The Treasury is reconsidering the Bill's draft proposals.



Savers hear glad tidings

are on the way for millions in the form of better savings rates. (Caroline Merrell writes).

This week. Halifax, Woolwich and Bradford & Bingley, joined the Abbey National, Nationwide Coventry, and Northern Rock in raising mortgage rates, at the same lime as increasing savings

Woolwich, for instance, has put up savings rates by a maximum of 0.5 per cent. On its Prime Gold account, interest rates for those with under £500 has gone up from 0.75 per cent to 1 per cent. For those who have a little more to save, for example, between £5.000 and £9,999, the rate has increased from 2 to 2.25 per cent

Nationwide also announced a raise in savings rates of 0.2 per cent. at the same time as increasing its mortgage rate for the second time in as many months. Balances of £2,000 will earn interest of 2.8 per cent, from the beginning of next

Bradford & Bingley is increasing its variable mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 6.99 per cent. Its savings rates are being increased by between 0.1 per cent and 0.45 per cent. The society claims it is putting the emphasis on the smaller saver. Those who have between £500 and £2,499 invested in the society's instantaccess account will get interest of 2.85 per cent -- 0.35 per cent higher

than previously.

Halifax, the biggest building society in the UK, is waiting until

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Harsh lesson for Northern

he concept of shareholder value. say bright-eyed analysts and fund managers, is spreading from the Anglo-Saxon countries to the Continent and Japan. The heart sinks a little. The excesses of the 1980s were not pretty. Break-up bids, greenmailing raiders demanding cash handouts, and leveraged deals that left businesses weighed down with debt, did much to weaken American industry in particular. It stymied investment, deterred innovation and made risk anathema. In mature industries, however, there

is much to be said for putting pressure on big company boards to work for their shareholders, rather than for the glory of the corporation. Too many hoards saw their shareholders as just another source of financing, and a messy, expensive one at that. Some still do. If investors become demanding taskmasters, directors have to focus on the job and become more competitive.

This is truest for steady, low-growth businesses that produce more cash than they need. A balmy climate breeds complacency, but the big question is what to do with the cash. You can diversify, let someone else do it by being taken over, or pass cash to shareholders via dividends or one-off payments.

Diversification has a mixed record. Most of the objects of big break-up bids were good businesses that lost their way by moving into areas their skills were unsuited to, even if they seemed to be "related". So the choice is often to offer shareholders jam today or to find that a predator does. As soon as the Government lifted takeover protection, this



became the stark choice for Britain's regional utilities, especially cash-rich power distributors. The modest, decent regulated life envisaged at privatisation was no longer possible. Patient diversification, rarely a winner in any case. became yesterday's game.

The moment of truth came just two years ago, when Trafalgar House, a shaky conglomerate, launched a £1.2 billion hostile takeover bid for Northem Electric, Like other regional electricity companies, Northern had been sold at £2.40 a share four years earlier. Trafalgar offered a seemingly munificent £10.40 a share plus.

Northern's board soon discovered the concept of shareholder value. The result was astonishing. It was able to offer its shareholders a £560 million package of cash special dividends and securities reckoned to be worth £5.07 a share, plus promise of higher dividends. This included the company's share of National Grid, which did not turn out to be worth quite as much when floated. Chiefly, however, Northern calculated that it could operate with far more debt and still raise annual dividends if it axed investment in diversifications.

This package saw off Trafalgar. But some dubious analysts thought it a risky scorched earth policy. Not so. Northern fulfilled its promises. When another unwanted bid came from the unprepossessing CE Electric consortium, the scorched earth turned out to be an allotment. Northern has grown another crop of shareholder value, from earlier investments that have matured. Having cut its debt, it can offer another 17 per cent rise in dividends next year, with more promised in future.

orthern also seems to be prospering on a low-fat diet. It has started to exploit the opportunities brought by competition as brightly as any and has more schemes to cut costs. The company is a good advertisement for maximising cash returns to shareholders.

With notable exceptions, fund managers seem unimpressed. Northern shares languished well below CE Electric's latest 650p bid until it was waved through the MMC yesterday. They now trade just below the offer, worth some £790 million, where they yield a prospective 9.6 per cent. That seems cheap for a company so dedicated to shareholders' wishes. If the high priests of shareholder value do throw their most assiduous servant to the dogs, others will know that the cuit, after all, just cloaks a greed for cash.

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The strain of obtaining treatment

Check small print on alternative

medicine, says Helen Pridham

vate medical insurers are including some form of cover for complementary medicine within their policies. They are responding to the growing popularity of treatments such as osteopathy, chiropractic, acupuncture and

However, prospective poli-cyholders need to look very carefully at exactly who the gatekeepers" are that will determine access to these therapies under the policies as well as the amount of benefit provided. Some insurers make it much more difficult than others to get treatment under their plans.

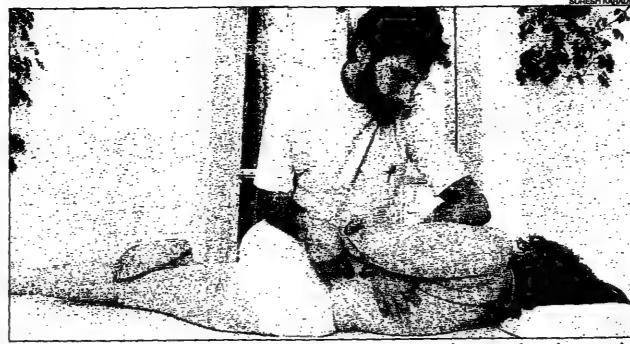
One group of policyholders are immediately excluded from cover for any complementary treatment. The over-65s who receive tax relief on their insurance premiums alternative therapies under

growing number of pri- their policies. The Inland Revenue provides relief for policies which cover mainstream medical treatment only.

Even if you are covered you will normally be able to claim for complementary medicine only if you have been referred by a conventional doctor. Some insurers will accept referral by your GP. They include Legal & General, PPP Healthcare, WPA and Prime

These companies argue that seeing the GP first is in the patient's own interest in case he or she has a serious medical problem which may go unrecognised by a complementary practitioner. But other companies, including Bupa and Cigna, will only pay for treat-ment if you are referred by a

Bupa stipulates that the treatment must be "an essential part of an overall course of treatment given personally by



مكذا عن الأحل

Under some insurance policies, obtaining payment for complementary medicine such as osteopathy can be a sore point

consultant". Walker of Medical Insurance Services of Brighton said: "The snag with policies that require referral by a specialist is that

not only must you be first referred to the specialist by your GP but there are still plenty of specialists who regard practitioners of comple

mentary medicine as quacks." Ohra, the Dutch-owned insurcompany that will pay for treatments without referral,

per year to a maximum of £30 per session under its Medios policy, and £50 a session tion with a complementary practitioner is estimated to be in the region of £20 to £40.

Under all Prime Health's policies up to £1,000 a year can be claimed for acupuncture, osteopathy, chiropractic and homeopathy. But many policies do not have a discrete amount of benefit for this

Where claims are admitted. they are often paid from outpatient treatment benefits which are often set at a low level in the first place.

Policyholders with PPP's Extensive cover, for example, would be dipping into a £500 per year outpatient allowance. At Legal & General, payments would come from a "cash reserve" that ranges between £200 and £600.

Policyholders with Norwich Union's popular Express Care plan have no cover for alternative therapies because the plan provides no outpatient cover. However those with its top-ofthe range Premier Care plan can get a full refund for GPrecommended osteopathy and chiropractic.

WHO'S WHO IN ALTERNATIVES

Acupuncture: This treatment involves stimulating key points on the body, often by inserting

Chiropractic: Here. a practitioner uses hands to manipulate bones and joints focusing particularly on the spine and central nervous system.

Homeopathy: Treatment involves "treating like with like", giving small doses of remedies made from natural products to produce symptoms very like those already being

Osteopathy: Osteopaths use their hands to diagnose the cause of pain and also for treatment using manipulative

Taken from Legal & General's guide to acupuncture, chiropractic. homeopathy and osteopathy, which is available free by telephoning 0800

Lerisse Smith cautions against changing a motor policy too early

Thrifty drivers face

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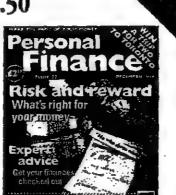
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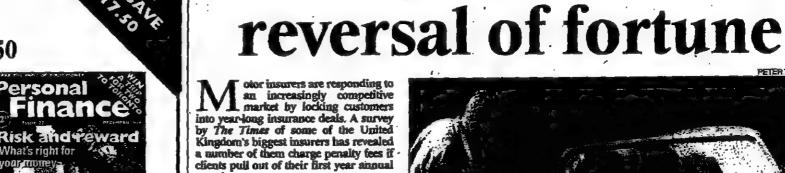
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The practice makes it more difficult shop around for the cheapest cover. The Consumers Association, which has conducted its own research, says some insurers have trimmed costs by cutting the frills out of their policies and it is important for people to check exactly what cover they are buying.

illow plenty of time before the renewal date on their existing policy to get alternative quotes. The penalties arise if customers cancel their motor insurance

month premium period. Companies have defended the fee by saying acquisition costs such as staff time and administration work justify their action and they expect customers to honour contracts.

Direct Line, the largest motor insurer in the United Kingdom with more than two million motor policyholders, and the Automobile Association, which insures about 900,000 motorists, charge a fee on a percentage basis in the first year of a premium. From the second year onwards, policyholders get their money

refunded on a pro-rata basis. Adrian Webb, a spokesman for Direct Line, said that, when a customer took out a policy, it was for a one-year contract and there were acquisition costs involved

in signing up a policyholder.
"Ultimately, you have to run a busi-ness," he said. "It is unfair on everybody else if someone cancels."

If a policybolder with Direct Line with

an average premium of £250 cancelled after four months, they would be charged £120. The fee ranges from 25 per cent of the total premium after one month, to 100 per cent of it after nine months. Mr Webb said the fee would be waived if someone

Rebecca Hadley, of AA Insurance Services, also agreed that insurance companies had the right to cover their costs if someone cancelled within the first year. She added that, if a client had been with the company for a long time, then money would be paid out on a pro-rata hasis. "We make it clear in the policy



documents. What we do is relatively common in the marketplace." The RAC, which has about 300,000

motor insurance policyholders with its insurance services section, refunds all premiums on a pro-rata basis. Ms Shirley Jones, RAC public relations manager, said that she knew some insurers who did charge customers cancellation fees.

"Inevitably, some companies would make a charge. Most companies have annual renewal bases. There is bound to be an administration charge but I would not expect it to be excessive, "Maybe people who want to change to another company can ask their original one to match the price. Most insurance companies like you to be loyal."

s Jones said most insurance s Jones said most insurance companies expected their customers to fulfil the year's premium and it was unreasonable to think a company should give back money if, for example, someone signs up with another one because it was £50 cheaper. She added that it was reasonable to make some sort of charge. "It's like mortgages — penalty clauses exist for early redemption. It (the fee charged by

the motor insurance companies) isn't by all means harsh. The motor insurance industry is a cut-throat marketplace. There is a lot to be said about loyalty. After two so three years they (the companies) might make some money out of the clients."

However, one Weekend Money reader encountered problems when he bought a new car and decided his current insurer was not offering a competitive enough deal on the vehicle insurance.

He cancelled his policy six months into the contract, and asked for a full claims record. However, he was charged a fee and had to make repeated requests for a no-claims record to send to his new insurer. "They put obstacles in your way and generally make life difficult," he said.

Some insurers remain firm that entitiements, such as no-claim discounts, may only be transferred from one company to another after one full year when the renewal notice is issued or at the discretion of insurance companies. They said people could abuse the system easily by building up discounts in a few months, with a few different companies.



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Spice up information on pensions

The Spice Girls believe that the nation will have tax and monetary union on its mind on polling day. Perhaps because of their youth, the girl band members do not mention pensions as an election issue. But for millions of voters of all ages this will be an important area.

Both the Government and the Opposition make much of their wish to see the populace make proper provision for its old age. As yet, however, there has been no coherent planning to ensure that people invest a sufficient amount and are properly informed as to

how their funds are performing. Those with personal pensions discover only with difficulty whether or not they have chosen a charttopping company because crucial details, such as persistency figures, remain insider knowledge. As skillfully managed entertain-

N WAY

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

finances, the Spice Girls are unlikely to be placing their pension savings with Aegon Life, Albany Life, Barclays Life, Britannic Assurance, Cooperative Insurance Society, Cornhill, Guardian Finan-cial Services, Irish Life, Lincoln National, MGM Assurance, Old Mutual, Reliance Mutual, Royal

Life and Sun Alliance All these insurance companies scored close to or less than 70 per

cent on the latest pension plan persistency figures. Persistency, increasingly seen as a crucial measure, indicates how many policyholders surrender their plans in the early years.

Low persistency suggests that a company is more concerned with its own sales figures than with ensuring that policyholders get suitable pensions. Arguably, low persistency indicates generally poor standards. The Personal In-

watchdog, concedes that the persistency figures need improvement. But this will not happen until companies are forced to reveal their persistency chart rankings to potential customers. A cause for an ambitious politician?

Halifax hangs back

INVESTORS at societies becoming banks next year have suffered meagre returns. But the end may he meagre returns. But the end may be in sight for Halifax customers, at least. Although other societies going to the stock market in 1997 have already revealed their savings rate changes, the Halifax is hang-ing back, waiting for smaller insti-tutions to show their hand. It seems that, as conversion decays never the society wants to make sure its savers do not all take flight after receiving their conversion payouts.

Gavin Lumsden says baubles and tinsel may hold real value

Xmas decor-auctions



reached £460 at Christie's auction of dolls, automata and Christmas on Thursday, indicating the demand from collectors for quality Christmas memorabilia

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scrambling around a dusty attic or that cupboard under the stairs in the annual hunt for the Christmas dusty box of tired tinsel and bashed-up nativity figures could be a treasure trove.

Christie's, Bonhams and Phillips, the London auctioneers, say that prices for Christ-A turn-of-the-century Christmas card recently sold for £200, and a shop-display Father Christmas from the same period went under the hammer for more than £1,000.

A 1950s German nodding Santa Claus took pride of place at an auction of dolls and Christmas decorations at Christie's last Thursday. The electronically operated oneand-a-half foot figure fetched

Germany is the source of many of the Christmas items turning up at auction. The country pioneered many of the yuletide traditions we recog-nise today. These travelled to this country when Prince Al-bert married Queen Victoria

However, the Christie's sale did have one quintessentially British piece, a pre-Second World War Father Christmas

A sale devoted to Victorian Christmas cards held earlier in the week at Bonhams naturally demonstrated greater British involvement, as this was the first country to get serious about sending mes-sages by post. Unusual cards are deemed valuable, with those featuring a distinctive Santa commanding a particularly high premium.

I this weekend finds you House in Washington DC 13 years later. Carbon and tungsten filaments took over at the start of the century, only to be superceded by bubble lights after the Second World War. Mazda made a series of Disney lights in the 1980s and

> et at auction recently. Don't be embarrassed if you own an artificial tree - that silver-coloured piece of tack could be an investment if you hold on to it long enough, even if you bought it for couple of pounds at Woolworth.

1960s. The Mickey Mouse edition of 24 bulbs burnt a

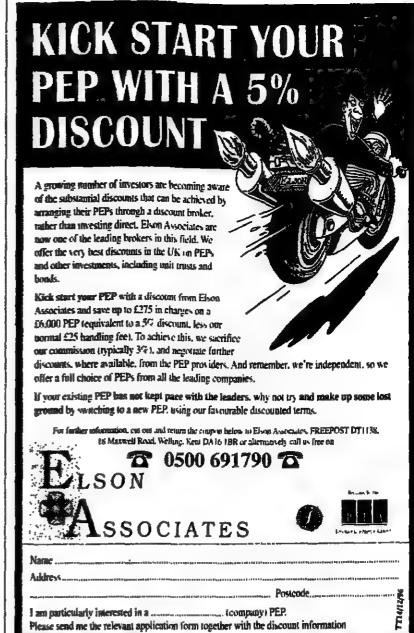
modest £40 in someone's pock-

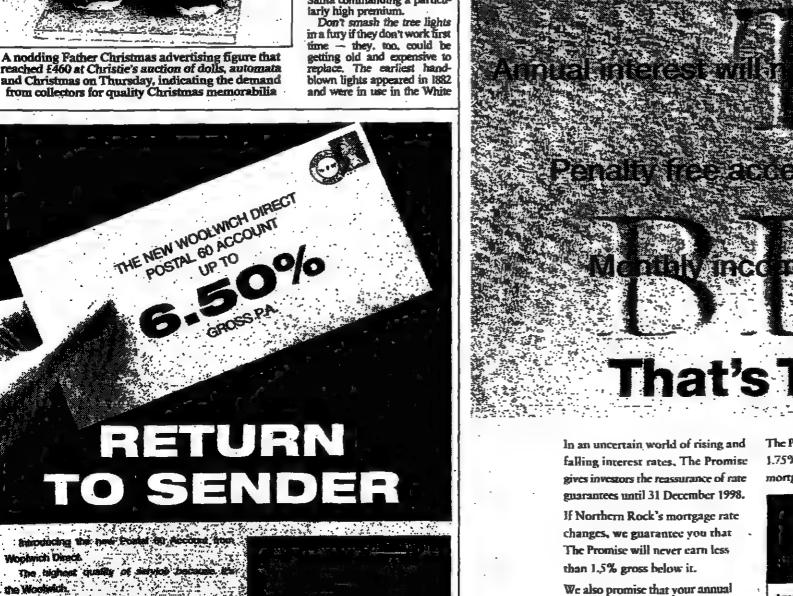
The first artificial trees sprouted in Germany after the First World War and were made from dyed goose and turkey feathers. Reproductions of these are now being made, so be careful if you think you find one in a

stretched to a realistic six feet and are now worth thousands of pounds if in good condition. Of course, there is a downside to all this value - insurance

Clare Pardy of Nordstern, the specialist art and antique insurer, said: "Christmas is a great time for raiding the attic in search of dressing-up cos-People bring their family treasures out as part of the familiar ritual, completely unaware that these items. Victorian, prewar and even postwar, have a monetary value too."

Nordstern will include valuable Christmas memorabilia. as well as your wine collection and more traditional objets d'art and antiques as part of a general house and contents insurance. A £500 premium





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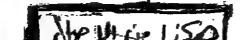
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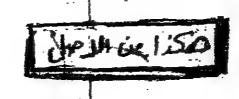
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Christmas Day? Why not ring the bank manager?

industry is poised for its busiest week of the year as shoppers arrange overdrafts and customers sort out their finances before the start of the festive season.

First Direct, which offers 24 hour telephone banking, expects 25,000 calls on Christmas Eve. 1,200 on Christmas Day and 8,000 on Boxing Day. Most calls are to arrange an overdraft, check a balance and pay a bill, although customers are keen to instruct in share dealing, ask about foreign exchange and deal with thefts of cards from wallets or the aftermath of house burglaries.

Peter Simpson, First Direct's commercial director, said many customers had started to call from restaurants in the early hours of the morning to increase their credit card limit. "Another very typical request is for lastminute finance to polish off the Christmas shopping - whether it is a loan, or an overdraft." he said.

Last year, First Direct took 20 calls from customers on Christmas Day who just rang to say "Happy Christmas". The bank has found that customers are spending 30 per cent more on their credit cards and expects demand for personal loans to increase by 50 per cent in January when people start to pay off the bills.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Marianne Curphey on growth in the rented property sector

Window of opportunity

The private rental market is recovering from its Rising signs of a genuine revival, according to a new report. The gross return for landlords on a property is now close to 10 per cent compared with the dividend yield on general utilities of 5.4 per cent and on gas of 8 per cent, according to the report by UBS, the Swiss bank.

Rob Thomas, housing analyst, says the private rental industry has 2.3 million customers, gross assets of up to £150 billion and an annual turnover of up to £15 billion. Net investment has been close to £20 billion over the past seven years. However, it is still extremely fragmented and a large proportion of landlords are still private individuals with one or two properties. The growth in the number of

landlords is a result of the 1988 Housing Act, which deregulated rents and gave landlords support in law to evict troublesome or non-paying tenants, and the housing slump of the 1990s, which made home-ownership less appealing. Mr Thomas says there are political risks for investors in the private rented market, but these have been eraggerated.

The greatest deterrent is the fear that

Labour has not lost its traditional hostility towards private landlords. However, Mr Thomas believes all political parties now recognise that the country needs a thriving rental market.

He says the total cumulative return on residential property in the period 1982-95 was 293 per cent. This compares with 192 per cent for commercial property and 983 per cent for UK equities. In the years after the Second World War generous tax breaks on housing and incentives from successive Conservative governments for homeshrunk dramatically. At the turn of the century 90 per cent of the housing stock was rented, by 1940 the figure was 50 per cent and in 1989 just 9 per cent. Mr Thomas believes this figure is now 10



Times have changed since Leonard Rossiter starred in Rising Damp

shoppers seem more willing to part with hard-earned cash.

Asda. Safeway and Tesco, the big food groups, are opening selected stores 24

hours a day in a bid to make hay while consumer confi-

dence continues to improve. Allders, the department stores

cent rise in pre-tax profits to

But talk of a consumer

boom is premature. This week

the British Retail Consortium

(BRC) reported that retail

sales growth slowed in Noveember to its lowest rate of

increase for seven months.

However, the annual rise in

the like-for-like value of retail

sales is still 4.9 per cent, but

down from its peak of 7 per

The Office for National

Statistics also reported last

month that seasonally adjust-

ed retail sales volumes were

4.1 per cent higher over the

year to October. Nearly £13 billion passed through cash registers in October. The BRC

£40.4 millio

per cent and rising, and there are one million shorthold tenancies currently in force. The UK has one of the lowest proportions of privately rented housing among developed countries. In Swit zerland the stock is 56 per cent; and 30 per cent in the US.

The bulk of rented accommodation - 75 per cent - Is owned by individuals with fewer than four houses. The tax incentives are not as great for businesses as private individuals. The sector includes 410,000 properties owned by companies to let to publicly quoted companies, the best known of which is Bradford Property Trust. Before the 1990s, the private

rented sector catered primarily for students, older, poorer people on regulated rents and a small niche of very rich individuals.

ince the 1980s this group has widcried to include people with nega-tive equity who have been forced to move because of their jobs and are renting out their old home until

property prices rise.

Yields on private rented property have been rising since the start of the decade, reflecting both falling house prices and rising rent and driven by growing tenant demand," Mr Thomas says. He compares the investment in residential property with buying equi-

income and capital values, with the prospect of rising income and capital gains. On the plus side, rents are inflation proof, tending to rise in real terms by about 2 per cent a year.

In April a new vehicle was introduced with some slight tax breaks — the Housing Investment Trust which will invest in property to let HIT's have yet to be launched and demand for them is predicted to be muted. Those with sufficient funds can take advantage of low house prices and mortgage rates by buying a second property, but there are more liquid alternatives.

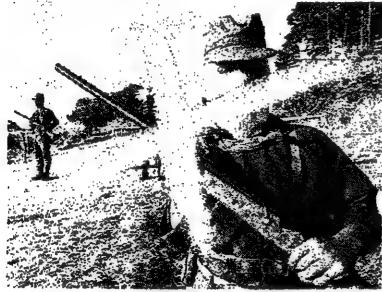
Investors could buy directly into companies quoted on the stock market which own and lease out resident property. Bradford Property Trust is the only hig quoted company that does this: its portfolio is spir 85 per cent residential to 15 per cent commercial property. Bradford edged pre-tax profits up 3 per cent to £25.6 million in the

year to April 5. Homes let under old-style regulated tenancies still account for about 80 per cent of Bradford's portfolio. Over the past 12 months its share price has been volatile: it rose last December from 180p to 220p, dipped in June and has recovered to just over 250p this month.

TR Property, managed by Henderson, buys properties, as well as shares and was the top performing property investment trust over the past 12 months, turning £1,000 invested into £1.349 in that period. Over the past 12 months Kleinwort 2nd Endowment Policy, a UK Capital Growth fund. has turned £1,000 into £1,346.

The alternative is a unit or investment trust, but many of these have portfolios weighted towards commercial property, which had a few bad years in the 1990s.

However, Ciaran Barr, UK economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, believes house prices will have risen 10 per cent by the end of 1997.



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Retailers cashing in on the traditional pre-Christmas spending blitz are tentatively welcom-ing back the good times as **Jingling** tills put retailers into the spotlight



says food and drink sales did particularly well last month as the stockpiling for the Yuletide festivities got under way. Another strong sector has been electrical goods, led by personal computers and computer games. This is good news for electrical retailers -

Comet, owned by Kinglisher, and Dixons, which owns Curand Dixons, which owns Cur-ries and PC World, the com-puter specialist. PC World had 30 per cent like-for-like growth in the year to last April and more is likely this year. But Frank Davidson, food

retailer analyst at James Capel, the broker, sees a tough time for high street grocers, such as Iceland, Kwik Save and Somerfield, as Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda continue to squeeze them on price and special promotions. Archie Norman's Asda is

run-up to Christmas because it has a large range of nonfood products, such as clothes and videos, attracting gifthunters. It posts interim reuits next Thursday and Mr pre-tax profits of £154 million. empared with £138 million for the same period last year.

Asda is favourite stock among analysts. They like its strong, innovative marketing campaigns, such as a 10 per cent discount for pensioners during happy boar. Trading at a modest 5 per cent discount to the rest of the market, the stock should be at the top of investors' shopping lists.

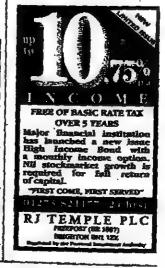
MATTHEW WALL

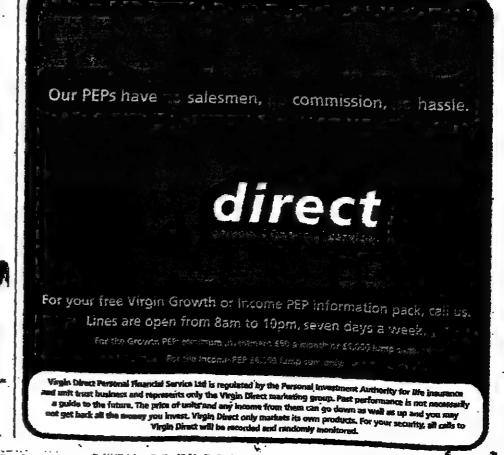
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Annaities explained

From Mr A.J. Bowtell Sir, I would like to try to answer some of the points raised by correspondents on the supposed "annuity iniquity" (Weekend Money Letters, November 30). I am an actuary working for a large life insurer who has been involved

in the pricing of annuities.

The two main determinants of the price of an annuity are the yield (or interest rate) that is available on appropriate (medium to long-term) fixedmortality table assumed in the calculations. The mortality ta-ble, which is based on data obtained from the study of a large number of lives, predicts the number of survivors after 1,2,3 ... years from an initial population of a given age. In effect, the table gives the probability, for example, of a 50 year-old surviving to age 51.

age 52, age 53 and so on.
The pricing of an annuity operates on normal insurance principles. The price of an annuity takes account of the probabilities of future survival and therefore payment. In effect, this means that the money paid by those who die soon after taking out their annuity, transfers to those who live longer. It does not fall as profit to the insurer.

There is one consequence of the above that should be explained to those considering deferring annuity purchase. If they defer purchase for say, five years, but die before that time elapses, then they will (in one sense) have gained from deferral! But if they survive the five years, when they do purchase their annuity they will have lost the benefit from pooling their risk five years earlier with other annuitants.

Insurance companies sell annuities at a price they consider will make a profit. The profit, however, is nothing like that suggested by some letters to Weekend Money. The annuities market is highly com-petitive and the expected profit, which will be realised only if annuitants live (and die) according to the mortalitiy table, is usually of the order of 4 per cent of the purchase money. The mortality table, as referred to earlier, is based on past experience but allows for. a continuing trend in mortality improvement, i.e. a contin-

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uing rise in life expectancy. In fact, each time a review of past projections of annuitants' mortality is carried out it is. found that actual improvements have been faster than anticipated. For example, we are already experiencing mortality that is lighter than that which, only a few years ago. was predicted for the year 2010. Annuity business has thus not been very profitable.

Briefly, the idea that annuity providers can invest the purchase price so that the income from the investment pays the annuity and the capital goes to the insurer when the annuitant dies is false. A BOWTELL, 65 Rances Lane,

Wokingham, Berkshire.

Pension Plan.

Self-assessment shock awaits the complacent

something about it.

been passed.

Return.

do not submit an income tax

return because the Inland

Revenue does not send them

one - they are not aware that it is their responsibility to

obtain a Return; under self-

assessment, it is their respon-

sibility to obtain the correct

It is now fairly apparent that the Government/Inland

Revenue are continuing on the

original course - thus there

will be many unhappy indi-

From Mr D.J.S. Fuller Sir. I would like to congratulate Anne Ashworth for the sentiments so adequately expressed in her comment (Selfassessment crucial for Kenneth, November 23).

THEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

I have been in practice as a chartered accountant for almost 25 years and have never experienced such apparent ap-athy on the part of the taxpayer. Part of this apathy must. I believe, be attributable to lack of awareness.

The taxpayers can create a fuss en-masse as we saw in the case of the poll tax, which it could be said, brought down a Prime Minister. Value-added tax was intro-

duced so charismatically that the taxpayer could not help but know what it was, what it replaced, how it was calculated and how it would affect

Earlier this year, my col-

leagues and I agreed to hold a seminar specifically on the subject of self-assessment, for a local Chamber of Trade and Commerce whose membership, comprising small and large businesses, exceeds 100. We prepared information

sheets to enable the attendees to supplement the knowledge they had acquired from us. In the event, the attendance was abysmal: significantly the attendees were bankers, lawyers, financial advisers and

attributed the poor attendance viduals after January 1998. to the fact that the chamber Many professional firms and membership were probably other organisations such as going to rely on their own ourselves have set up departaccountants: however, subsements and made arrangequent discussions have ments to enable very small brought us to the conclusion businesses and individuals to that very many, probably the majority of small businesses have not even considered the cope with self-assessment at a very limited cost - however. market research seems to indiimplications of self-assesscate that the public do not know, do not care, and generally believe that it will be ment, let alone the fact that they should already have done

all right on the night". It will

Further, but equally importantly, there are millions of Whether the Government/individuals currently not rep-Inland Revenue have yet done resented by accountants who, enough to create awareness is in our view, will be utterly incapable of calculating their arguable; what is certain is that the publicity campaign must be stepped up very soon for the benefit of those millions tax liabilities, and thus will incur penalties and surcharges. Many will not even of honest industrious taxpay ers who have never knowingly committed an offence in the past, but may well, after look at their return until the deadline for obtaining Inland Revenue assistance in the January 1988, find, to their considerable cost they have calculation of liability has I have spoken to many individuals who state that they been in default.

If your article did something to spread this awareness, then that is a good thing - however, the probability is that individuals who read your column will be the ones whose affairs are in order, the target audience should be the inno-Yours faithfull

DENIS FULLER. Fuller Spurling & Co. Guildford Place, 124 Guildford Street,

Change of address proved doubly costly with the AA

From Miss E. Napier Sir, I wish to inform you and the other readers of a little known section of small print that is adminstered by the AA insurance services. I recently informed them

of a change of address (which I am required to do by law) yet they then charge me £25 for doing so, for "administration" (on top of any extra due to an increased risk of the new address).

I find this to be an outrageous hidden charge that would have swayed me against using their services for insurance. Other readers should take note. Needless to say I will not be renewing with the AA for anything. Only after I complained

did they agree to drop the price for "administration" to £15 — this is still excessive. Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH NAPIER, 15 Portland Court. Baltic Wharf, Bristol



Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. The Times regrets that it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should always be sought.

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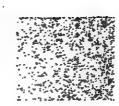
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only investing with one of the country's leading

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The Based is a solicity benight teams and many the entirplaces at only consistent and active manual grade and above maturally on 16/2/99 Early observe of the Board is not promitted except on the death of the manual manual program is at the board can be a consistent or a proposed of recommend and and the board can be a consistent or a proposed or consistent or a proposed or consistent or cons

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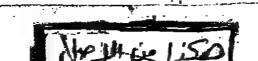
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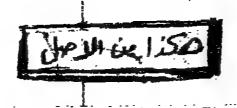
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Essential festive financial reading

are looking for ideas to improve your finances in the new year, the following books should be at the top of your Christmas list

■ Getting Started in Shares, published by Wiley, offers a guide to trading tactics and shows you haw to choose the right stockbroker and how to assess the merit of different shares. El4.99.

Plan Your Retirement Like an Expert will help you to devise a personal plan capable of providing the income you require for the rest of your life. It advises on setting a retirement budget and find-ing a financial adviser. Foulsham & Co. £6.99.

■ Be Your Own Financial Adviser, published by Which?, is an introduction to the broad principles of financial planning and the tools. techniques and financial services available. £9.99.

How to Fix Your Finances gives guidance in assessing your current financial health and planning your financial future. For the more experienced investor, advice is given

2116

f you are still searching on building a portfolio of for the perfect present or equity bonds. Wiley: £14.99.

The Landlord's Guide to Residential Lettings is useful whether you are new to the lettings market or an experienced landlord, and explains the legal obligations involved in renting out property. £9.95. Call 0181 800 4313.

■ The Credit Suisse Guide to Managing Your Personal Wealth contains articles from more than 50 financial experts, discussing the multi-tude of ways wealth can be invested for maximum profit. £46 (Blackwells Bookshop).

■ Which? Way to Beat the System steers you through the main bureaucracies that govern our lives, from the NHS to the education system. The guide gives practical advice on how to choose a GP or a school and reveals how to enlist the support of your MP on a local issue. £9.99.

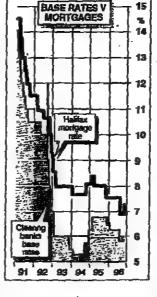
🖷 Perfect Personal Finance reveals how to balance savings and expenditure and how £1,000 a year can be saved with better planning. Barrie & Jenkins: £5.99.

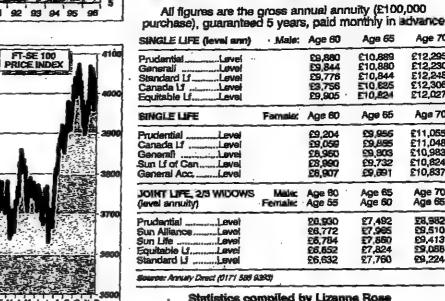
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Cheltenham & Glos 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	2100	5.50	Y
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NetWest Bank 0800 200400	Fored rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	FM
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	Infilm Beater	5 year	£1,000	7.00	Y
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668	-	5 year	£250	7.00	Y

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Capital One Bank 0800 669000 Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	Visa MasterCard/Visa	0.797%N 0.917%C	9.90%N 11.50%	N
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Rates as at December 12, 1996

3110			Observations.
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.10
	10,000	Premium Life	5.50
	20,000	Premium Life	5.70
	50,000	Premium Life	5.80
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.15
	10,000	Premium Life	5.96
	20,000	Premium Life	6.10
	50,000	Premium Life	6.15
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	10,000	Premium Life	6.25
	20,000	Premium Lite	6.35
	50,000	Premium Life	6.40
Years	•		
	1,000	Premium Life	5.90
	3.000	ITT London & Edin	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.95
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.45

			70		INTERPORTED IN			
FIXED RATE	Gross	Buying	Gross	issue				
LIVER LATE	coupon	price	yield	price	amount			
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	104.05	9.000	100.17	1,000			
Bradford & Bingley	11,625%	126.89	9.161	100.13	10,000			
Bradford & Bingley	13,000%	142.66	9.112	100.20	10,000			
Bristol & West	13.375%	146.27	9.144	100.34	1,000			
Britannia	13.000%	142.18	9.143	100.42	1,000			
Coveritry	12.125%	134.15	9,009	100.75	1,000			
First National	11.750%	125.82	9.339	100.25				
Hallhuic	8.750%	89.57	8.768	100.62	50,000			
Hallian	12.000	123.33	8.712	100.28	50,000			
Hatifax	13.625%	153.55	8.873	100.00	50,000			
Leads & Holbeck	13,375%	148.81	8.988	100.23	1,000			
Newcastie	10.750%	120.55	8.902	100.32	1,000			
Newcastle	12.625%	138.40	3,057	100.45	1,000			
Northern Rock	12.625%	142.90	6,835	100.14	1,000			
Skipton	12.875%	142.83	9.014	100,48	1,000			
	Gross	Buyin	in k	State	Minimum			
FLOATING RATE	conbou	Pric		rice	purch			
Cheshire (28/09-27/03)	8.41563%	107.6	3 10	0.00	1.000			
First Nat(20/09-20/03)		101.6		0.00	1,000			
PIBS = Permenent interest-bearing shares Source ASN AMRO Houre Govett — 0171 601 0101								
SHARE IN POCUS - BAT INDUSTRIES 500 50								
					920			

PIBS

Northern Rock BS 0345 421421

Lander	Interest rate %	Loan size	Mex %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic	1,86	£200-300k	75	Disc of 5.6%
0181 742 0471 Bristol 6 West	1.95	£15k+	90	until 1.10.97
D800 608088	1,350	EISKT	=0	Fixed at 1.95% until 1.10.97
Nationwide	1.95	to £500k	75	3.90% discount
0800 302010				for 1 year
Benka				•
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% dec-6 mp
01734 510100				3% dsc-6 min
Midland 0800 494 988	3.74	£100k+	80	3% discount for
V000 494 869				12 months
l%l	LA	RGER I	OA	45
-	DOMESTIC OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	27/2046-7-12-6	Cir Degg	COST CONTRACT
	Interest	Lours	Max	
Lander	rate %	size	. %-	Notes
Building Sociation				
Scarborough	0.25	£30-1008	25	6.73% disc Smit
				COL Sauth & ED &
0800 590547			_	276-0111U1,U.376-1
0800 590547 Chorley & District 01257 279373	0.50	£80-120k	80	2%-6mth,0.5%-1 6% discount for 6 months

LARGER LENDERS

0800 128125	4,29	120-200K	80	12 months
Banks Bok of Iretand 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6,25% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.25	£15k+	95	3,74% disc for 12 months.
GUARANTE	for	you are look! high returns a urity, the lead	ind G	ALL NOW ON FREETHONE
		th profits bor	_	526 091

24-17 OF 188	CALL STREET	元十年,在中国的一种国家的 国家		
Source. Chamber Early surrender. 1	tain de Broë 0171-4; Ferms vary, Monthly	34 4222. Net rates, income and o income may be available.	epital guarantiesd.	Day Ann Fig. No. Agr May Ann Jul Ang Sap Ou Apr Day
	1,000 3,000	Premium Life ITT London & Edin	5.95 6.45	
5 Years	1,000 3,000	Premium Life ITT London & Edin	5.90 6.85	SHARE IN FOCUS - BAT INDUSTRIES HOPES OF BID OR DEMERGER 540
4 Years				

Lander	Interest rate %	Lour	Max %	Notes
Building Sociation				
Scarborough 0600 590547	0.25	£30-1008	25	6.73% disc 5mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1
Chorley & District 01257 279373	0.50	£80-120k	80	6% (discount for 6 months
Mansield 01246 202065 Banks	0.39	£75-125N	90	6.35% disc 6mth 2%-6mth,1%-1yr
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0,99	E20-145%	95	6,25%dec-6 mth, 3% dec-6 mth
TSB Bank 0500 758000	0,75	£15k+	95	2% discount for



hr fad Int ACC	100.30	189.64	- 3.40	
Japan Fond	232.93	245.16	- 5.83	(
AITHTICH ACT	ESTAN/	442.70	- 6.4	
Prote Ed Acc	479440	5435 944	- 0.53	1
Multiple In Acc	1213.90	1277,10	-1270	77
MILLED DENI	-	-	CE	1
Saladay INI IE	1	A610-1	W. IL.	1
01793 514514	-			1
Fad Int Dep AC	404.40	425,70	• 0.30	[
Eureits Act	16/01.00		-11.20	
Cuperty Acc	h52.50	788x 911	- 0.00	:: 1
far East ACC		139 70	- 5.10	1.1
Managed Capital	007.013	MJ.70	- 1.30	. 1
the sec	[291AU		- euso	.]
O creeze Act	1157,40		" 1 TU	,. I
Galt Edged ACT	550.JU		0.40	1
Amer Equity acc			4 10 20	٠ ١
NUMBER OF STREET	422.30	441 60	411.00	
ATTEST PROP ACT	117,393		~ (+ 9 0	
Distribution Barb	d: 25_31	200		
NAV EDETTY &	LAW	DIPE		- }
ASSILRANCE				- 1
American Ross	L Hilgh	Wycould	e, Bud	a 1
01-194 46,146.1		_		J
RESULTING SET IN	17.20	1N7 10		. 1
Bakked Ser to	M4 (0	400-50	• 0.30	. 1
Ultimization 2010		25.41	- 6.30	
Dutabuling Sero		lua vu	0.30	
K Equiter Serv		(1230)	4.40	1
lik of incher	C1247	(13.17	+1110	
worth Arrest Set to	1 CENT	1.12.50	-14 10	. 1
Fut Earl Set to	502.00	5-11_5-1	-11100	

WATER ATTER SHEET			-14 10 .	Equity	441 10		- n.20	
Fut Earl Set to	502.00			Property	223.00			
E Turce, gal o	WAY AND	401.00		CIP & Fixed int	34011)	11370	- 0.10	
Into sero	(07).50	NW SI		Index Linker	105-20			
Protects Set 6	Per contract	235.24		Lenh .	277.30	292.30	· 0.20	
area Int ser n	44:30	524.20	- µ 40	NEX ADVITORS	نان ذروج		- 9_8Y	
ted lates in the	201. 31	2 Hr 40	- 0.90	Fair East Acc	APP 180)25 20	- F-R) .	
fores. Dep Serie	322.00	330.00	4 17 40	International 4ex	341.40	19470	- 4.80 .	
				Special Stra	87.300	760° les	- 270	
BARCLAYN LI				Енгорсан Пев	500 51	419 91	- s- 7A	
152 Ramburd R 0181 534 5544	ond, Los	rdug EJ	ผล					•
Equil's AKE	10-40-20	סל ומו ו	- 10 111	COLONIAL MI	ITLAIL.	GROUI	9	
← input	h44 50	674 59	- * 50	Сојовиј Мултеј	House	Cheffe	a Marida	_
Off Edyrd Act	430.00	461.10	- 2.20	Kent ME44YY	DIAM SE	0.000		_
-du-Inmal	272/10	27(1.40)	- [40]	(United here!	2420.4		* 10b .	
לשתחום ורדיונה! אכנ	31 1 30	477. TO	- 4.30	фо-Расспиальт:	BM LD		. 4 14	•
-dry-lighted	Z7930	294 60	- 540	do Cash	217.52	228 97	· 413	
Manuage Acc	521,30	1954 70	- 670	-do-Emuly	PHI-25	MEET	Î 10	
-do-Initial	355.30	405 NO	- 4 10	do-Rulini	474 47	Co. All	- 144	••
formy are	1/4 90	331 10	4 0.30	do-Managed	10.0	478 AN	· 907 .	
Property Acc	317 70	1 4.50	- 0.50	du Property	341 14	199 15	1.73	
air- inmai	195,70	0.000	0.50	(Pens) Cash Cap	215.01	20.14	- fl.in	•
ACCUPATED ACC	סל מענ	=0.10	-10,90	do- Cash Inc	537.40	755,50	- 42.53	:
Fur Last Grath	257 50	264 10	- 7 eU .	do- Equity Cap	E (n. 95	117.84	- 254	•
f inancial acc	45(10)	445 40	- 4,00	do Edult Inc	COLOR	COLUM		
40 wash	524,50	547,91	- 2.90	do Flord Can	446.73	454 1		
Japan to:	253.24	30 mil	- 73%	-do- Fined in	ees 71	721.85	- 1/4	
Income Acc	627.40	465.37	~ 1000	do Index Cap	211.09	171 7	2.31	
Let use an	322 70	334,70	- 3.10	de index im	331.73	349.21		
Special Sits Acc	318 40	33540	- 200	do- Mined Cap	672.55	AUT. TO	u 25	
Lan Sean Act	183.343	143.93	+ 3.3G ·	de Masa im	1,10.56	L11 12	• 1.11	
					*****	4 12	4.55	
BLACK HOUS	E LIFE			COMMERCIAL	DN10	N.		
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01034 934000				VAL AND ACC 150 I	917.17	, mc.	-1301	
The Vanaded F2	94H 17	94× 17	-14.18	ar ann (S) !	Diffe Del		- 812	•
Income Fund	405 (6)	452.60	- 423	Prime: Managed	444.10	491.00	= [901	
Estra incume	#19.41	MOV 54	= 4,94	Prime U. Equity		12.35	· fags	
Worldwide Gris	547 (6	571.117	-14-46	Prime: Ins Equity	325 x1	4340	- 0.00	
Balanovi F Jaul	MP145	R\$3.53	- 0.85	Prime Projects	251.30	201 007	* II (0)	
Smills Cos Recus	E iO an	E10 45	-1215	Prime Fud Inc	201.10	275 10		
Amer & Genti	17140	496.01	- 235	Prime (nates-Lnt.	LUSS SU	UVS TO	- 1.13	
Pacific Boin	429.18	441.77	-10.22	Prime: Cash	221 50	271.20	• R.3:	•
German Gruwth	200	374 74	- 2.09		~			
Ingan Counth	IACT 75		- 177	CONFEDERAL	OX II	-		

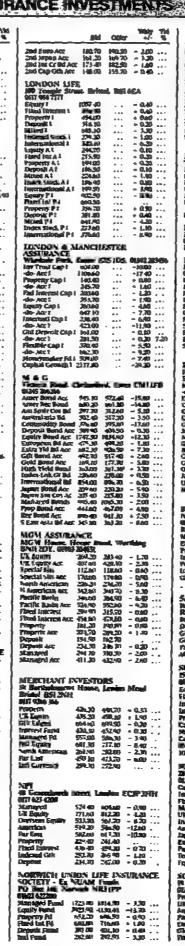
ATCHEROPORTING 1990	6 4€, (12		네트 게 나	440
01034 %4000				
The Vanaged F2	OTM 12	04× 17	-14.18	
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Estra income	414.41	MOV SA	= 4,564	
worderlide City	541 (S)	571.157	-14-46	
Balagori Fund	MJ1145	M\$3.53	- 0.85	
Smills Cos Regus	E10.40	EIOUS	-1215	
N Amer & Gent	47140	496.41	- 239	
Pacific Boin	420. Ik	441.77	-10.22	
German Graviti	204	274.74	- 209	
Japan Growth	M3.75	INT.22	- 327	
ThethGibto	263 I4	775.94	- 1JA	
Copil Euro Gih	165.05	177.74	- 2.16	
Property Fund	4	444.40	+ V 43	
Fixed interest	355.07	344.24	- 253	
Cash Fund	57.75	6. 10.	· 223	
Managed Ins	DIA N	30. 01	- # 97	
Vill Amer Recov	3 <u>22.2</u> 1	339 17	- 437	••
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Managani Grih	540 78	-3.3	- 221	• • •
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90 Bothwell N. C	gaskon.	G2 6H1	•	
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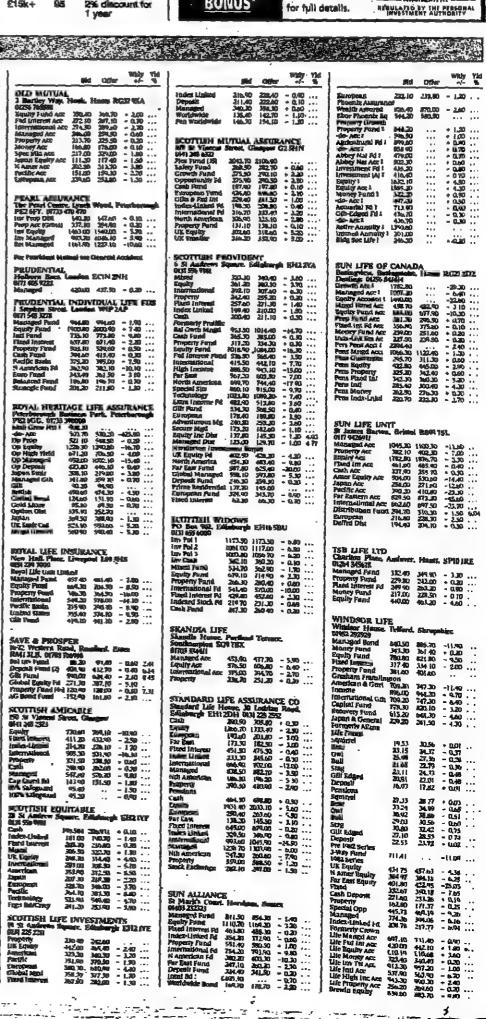
	1-45 <u>1</u>	Z-19 19		C.
	¥ld	Offer	Walty My	
UK Opportunity Euro Opportunity North Auter Opp	249,90 272,90 347,30	262.80	- 1.90 - 4.90	
	3203 103	257.40	- 340	
CAh Prop Ser I	210.10	#11.10 #11.40	- 020 08.1 -	
CONT. IMI	173.40 210.55 278.60 171.00	祖和	- 0.10 6.4	
Offersons Protestry U.C. Managed Pand UK Equity	20 W	180.40 276.60	- 0.12 6.4 - 2.10	
Managed Pund	254, JU 254, 43	429,60 791,20	- 0.30	
OK EROLL	290,30 120,86	309 to 305-36	- 0.30 • 5.35 • 0.30	
Flood Interess	132.00	100.00	- 220	
Horth America	320.6G 216.50	371 SA	- 1.00 1.60	•
International European	349.00	397.40 (64.20	- 6.10	
	(\$1.40	(64.20)	- 210	
CANADA LIFE 24 High Street 07/07 SILZZ	Petters	Ny. Ho	m ENG HE	
Equity Growth I	202.90	11 F. Co.	4.75	
Chick Co. Lan	257 40	4(3,00 273,10 265,30	- 6.30 - 1.20	
Chir & Faul Int	271,00 0-1.50	245.30 499.00 243.30	- 1.20 - 4.50	
CLIře Euro Mad	201 10 452-40		-1340 .	
Clar inii Fd Managed Fund	第7.20 的7.60	407.60 RR210 58n 00	-1240 -1146 .	
Property Fund Equity Fand	597 70	58n 00 1309-21 7,9/71	- (14.50 · ·	
Managed Fund Property Fund Equity Fund Gill Edged Pd Deposit Fund	194.20 207.30	7,9770 376 (d	- 010 .	
justinan jawaj	1147.80 644.20 257.30 514.30 614.70	376 TO 527,50 647,10	- 17.00	
CITY OF WES Sensry Mouse. 9 Militon Keynes ! Property Fund Managed Pund	MINS	ER AS	SURANCE	
Milion Keynes :	K 43 2N	91998	101004	
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CLERICAL ME UNIVERSMENT Narrow Plain, II Ausganes Funds	S Mariani E	ST BUH.	OHE SOM	k
Acceptance Funds Supplier Missel Ruby	335,32 [47,93	154,00	· LPAG **	
E I CHETTAL	159,40	154,00 208,40 167,90	- 0 107	
Espoint Property Gift A Fixed Int	159,40 341 3U 241_30	4(9,10 251,90	6.40 0.40	
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riternar (oft-site)	200 40 10 17.30 144 10 15.00 17.30 1	134 10 205 43 467 93	- A 70	
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Kent ME44YY (Unjist key (Oo-Pacemakey: ske Cash	217.52			- 1
Ment ME447Y ('Units key ! do-Pacemoket : do-Cash do-Equity do-Paci (n:	217.52 时间-25 404 #1	Ch All	4 40 - 44	Į
New! ME44YY (Unlist key! do-Pacemulot : do-Equily do-Rui int do-Numared	217.52 049.25 404.47	C5.2	- 1.44 • 927	
Kent ME-14Y (L'niist key (dir Pacemaker: dir Cash dir Equily dir Rid (dir Managed dir Property Perist Cash Cap	217.52 040.25 404.40 541.19 215.01	459 A4 370 [5	- 1.44 • 927 • 1.53	
Kent ME-44Y (Trilist key (dir Pacemaker : dir Cash dir Equilly dir Rid Int dir Managed dir Property Perist Cash Cap dir East Int dir East Cap	217.52 649.25 659.69 541.19 215.01 337.40 E10.95	20.34 20.34 20.34 25.34 255,50 117,61	- 1.44 • 9.67 • 1.53 - 8.46	
Men Med 477 Unist key i do Pacemaker: do Cash do Equily do Ruf ini do Ruf ini do Pacemy Perrst Cash Cap do Cash ini do Eduly Cap do Eduly in	217.52 198-25 404 40 341 19 215,01 337 40 Elin,45 Chira	220.34 220.34 220.34 250.36 250.30 217.84 2.34(4)	- 144 • 927 • 157 - 14a • 93) • 254 • 548	
Real WE 477 (thist key! do-Bacemaker: do-Eastly do-Baulty do-Managed do-Managed do-Property Herst Cash Cap do-Cash Inc do-Equity Cap do-Equity Cap do-Flued Cap do-Flued Inc	217.52 040.25 454.40 311.10 215.01 517.50 Elin.45 Casta 416.31 645.71	250,34 489,48 390,15 220,34 595,50 117,84 526,64 499,31 281,81	- 144 • 907 • 15) - 84a • 93) • 24e • 54g	
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CONFEDERATION LIFE
Liston Way, Sevenage, News SGI 2500
01482 14-040
Managed Forus 15-07-01 19-0-10
Equity II 1921-20 2022-70

| EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSIVANCE | Monigoffler Drive. Cheliculum, GL37LQ. G326 2234| Life Funds | G167 |

		gild	Offer	white	3	l	Jhd.	Otter	6.J-	380
	Property of Piece 12	U 107,50	201.40	• 0.10		HAMINO AS	screen			
	Water 21	279 40	294,65 294,70 233,95	- 1,30 - 3,43	.,.	PR2 2PSL 9877	25/0000 1:0000	210.00	~ 200	
	Managed (2) Person Pubes	221.9G 187,4n	197.40		.,.	Managets -do-Pers UK Equaly	254.60	257,90	- 4.7D	
99	Light With Physics	16 100.00 100.00	***	- 0.30 - 0.33		-do- Petos International	253,90	367.10	- 4.40 - 3.33 - 4.50	•
•	Secure (3): Manages (3): Equity Magel (3) Adventurers (3)	150,00		- 0.40		-de- Peris	197.90	197_10	- 4.90 - 0.10	::
	Adventurous (2)			- 1,40 - 0,23		-s> his	14500	97.30	+ 0.20	***
.	EAGLE STAR	MIDIA	NO			HILL SAMUE NIA TOWN, AN	L LIFE			
	ed St Mary Ass Esple/Mki Lite	n, Loude n 151,10	ECA 0	429 l - 1 27	iki ogt			e (Kung),		•
	PRIEMDS PE Code Street S MITHALINA	OVIDE	VI.			lectoring Fond lectorsh Fund	0.0 M	226 30	- 340 - 4.10	
	THE Street S	Mariney.	Wills St		ļ	International Dolbur Fond	992 IV	947-20	-10.40 -12.70	*
	Maraged UK Equity Som archite	367,00 907,90 447,90	234L40			Capital Fund Incomes Forms Property Series A	\$34.Q2	M2 50	- 250	
٦.	Diservatorio Facilità	374 AC	471.30 352.30 204.00 195 (0 202.20 195 (0 203.40 195.40 224.40	- 5.50		Property Craics Proceeding Craics	別440 お大の おどう から230 1154-00 でするの 対240 4175-0 416-50 205-95 おどりの	350,40	4.20	
	North american Pacific Basis European	173.40	14) ¹⁰	- 250		Managed Set A	142.20	67-40	- 4.60	
	Property Florid Interest	185.70 26.746	195 (0	- 0.30		Managed Lights High York Fond Money Series A	797 40 317.00	101.50	- 040	•
: {	Costi	285.60 217 IO	195.40 228.60	- 1.10		Money Series 4 Money Units Equily Fund	417 % 739 Au	439.ED	4 (1.30 - 6.80	•
	FP Life APPLICAGE Fixed Interest	(I).00E	030.50	- 5.30		Fixed Interest instruct Sept	416.50 305 93	440.80 215 40	• 0.10 • 0.70	٠.
	Martegrel Deposit	\$12.30 170.60	635.50 895.00 340.10 554.30	- 8.70 - 0.30	:	Satural Res	105 00 315.50	440.00 215 40 426.00 373.40 657.00 657.00 295.60 295.60 472.40	~14.00 ~ 970	
:	Property American	3507 (40)	554.30	* (2.00)		Far East Fund Smaller Cos Special Sits	672.40	690.40	-13.30 - 3.10	:.
	Austra(ign) Engepsen Income Acc	722 90	764.00 764.20 764.20 912.40 904.70 371.60 417.60 638.70	-12.30	.:	Man Currench	20710	396.60	• 2.50 • 1.10	
:	-Se-Wisi	47930	504,40	- 4,50	1 in	Japanese Tech Ud Smiller Cas Formerie Targer	44b.40	472.40	- 7,00	
- [Парада Астана Білья Астана	307 713	417.10	- 4,95	٠. ا	Lagrange III	24)10 (10, 4840)	30.20	- 0.20	
-	Smaller Con Tokyo Fund	900.50	525 W3 6(3,40)	- 303	: }	Financial ser il Paré Impanie Gold	36a, 40	38570	- 0.50	
-	CK Equity CCM Yango Mg	689-303 944-50	725.30	- 5.93	:: }	Managed	71210	75u20	- b_10	
. I				-		Magd Green's Magd Opp	245,30	200 CO 1 200 20 65 90 385 76 69 93 75 120 25 10 25 10 117 40	~ 210	
-	GT GLOBAL F Alban Gur, 140 ECZY SAS, 0171	784 4587				Migo Opp Property Bushlenius Prop 158 American 158 Brit Gwish 158 European 158 Income	11130	De TE	- 7 20	
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	CMID JEW, 612	riore. Eu	et.		- }	TSB lettl toc TSB Pactile	797.43	413.20	- 3.83 - 7,40	
- 1	-to- in A	780 40	827.ml	- 1.00	.	TSE Frem the	2004 P.C.	301 10	~ 1AG	•
1	UN Equity Gill Plus Managed	489 (c) 225.30 (52.91)	515.00 207.00 371.90	- 0.20	1	HISTORIAN A	NATIONAL PROPERTY.	NEE		
- 1	GENERAL AD			- 110 .	1	Irisk Life Centre ISorts ALI STF. I	1973; 48Q	8		
1	2 Rougier St. Yo	ork Yi7l i	拼化 炯	OI 62998	2	Global Managed Global Property Global Based Inc.	321 M2	129 CC	-1190.	
1	United Facility	157 45 341 St	BALCO.	· ILAU .	- 1	Girbai Fried Ins Girbai Egain Girbai Cash	7900 21.30	774.70		•
Ì	Managed Dimmed 1 Dimm	217.70	22 ¹⁴ .00 190.50	- [50 . - 240 .	•			200.00		
1	Cash Deposit Property	187.50	[97.30] [4].80	- 0.10	: }	LAURENTIAN Ransonal Class	LIFE Creater (F	4187		
1	International	143 m3 213.50	204.50 224.60	- 240 - 190	- 1	Barmond, Class 81-62 37(37) Property		575.30	e (°40	
1	Japan Ym il r Gis	210.43 216.00	221.90 221.20	- 230	. I	Mariagesi Assertican	409.20 521.00	501 30	- 3.jn - 4.30	
j	European Pacific Fund	214.10 301 (4)	25.20 ·	- 240 . - 480	- 1	UN Equity Fd		974.70 (57.00	- 110 .	
-	Com Life Formerty Provider	153 Q) 16 MURLS	[6].40	• 0.5Q	- ł	index-Lid Hype deld	201 AC	2) 1.50 10%	- 0.30 - 7.00	
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- (Equity Land	501.70	474,80 981,20	140	. [Henderson Active	229 10	241 IO 1789 301	- 5.30 .	- 1
- [I-United Gill fair	145.50	<u>212.20</u> 151,20	- <u>29</u> 1	: {	Growth Ace Glit Edged Erropean	51 M	126 10 20 20 137 40	- 5,00 - 11,30 .	-
ļ		270,31	250 70 264 50	- 5.70 - 3.40	: (Ermopeag. For East	167.32	129 10	- 200 - 500	
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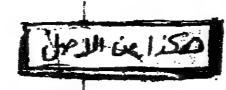
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Successful candidates in the Intermediate Examination held in November, 1996

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Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

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M (Arthur Andersen) Nottivaham: Adams B J (ICMG) London: Adams C E (BDO Stoy Hayward), Reading: Addison J C (Mortan Brown & Spotforth), Epson: Addison v (Deloine &	Manchester, Brown V I. (RPMG). Birmingham: Browne J N T (Morris & Co), Chester, Bryan M (Coopers & Co), Chester, Bryan M (Coopers & Lybrand). Birmingham: Buckingham M (KPMG). Birmingham: Bucking C (Deloitie & Touchel, Lecos, Bucknall A K (Coopers & Lybrand), Cardiff: Bukhar J E Ernst & Youngi. London: Buil C J (Price Waterhouse). London: Buil C J Engelstad S (Coopers & Lybrand), London: Builough D A (Gruber Lavinson Franks), Warrington: Bunkar J R (Deloine & Touche), London: Builough D A (Gruber Lavinson Franks), Warrington: Bunkar J R (Deloine & Touche), London: Bunn M J (Price Waterhouse). London: Burbridge S C (Meyer Williams), Herriord: Bunkar J R (Deloine & Touche), Burges S C (Coopers & Lybrand), Nottingham: Burman J E (Coopers & Lybrand), Monton Keynes: Burns M W (Coopers & Lybrand), Cardiff: Burrow S R J (BDO Stoy Hayward), London: Burrows M P (Deloine & Touche), Birmingham: Burrows S J M (Coopers & Lybrand), London: Burrow J (KPMG), Noningham: Burron P S (Robson Rhoded, Crawley: Bushell E A (Ernst & Young), London: Butters C A (Zernsf & Young), Manchester; Butterworth G C (BDO Reads Limited), Guernsey; Byrne A J (Deloine & Touche), London:	Order of Mel First Place in the Order of Merit (equal) and the Plender Prize and the Knox Prize		Fifth Place in the Order of Merit (equal) and the Arthur Swinson Prize and the Howitt Prize for the		(KPMG). Brimingham, Millert K. M. (KPMG). Leeds: Miller S. A. (Ernst & Youne). Brimingham, Millerchip S. (KPMG). Manchester: Millingion R. C. (Hart Shaw). Sheffled: Mills H. F. & Gropert & Sheffled: Mills H. F. & Gropert & Sheffled: Mills H. F. & Gropert & Millingion R. C. (Hart Shaw).	Touchei, Birmingham: Poner A M iDeloitte & Touchei, Birmingham. Polis E J (Price Waterhouse). Newzastie upon Tyne: Pouros G T iCoopers & Lybrandi, Lamaca: Powell S G (Coopers & Lybrandi, Liverpook Powell V L W (Price Waterhouse), Ledds; Powles S J (Emis & Young). Birmingham. Prabbakaran P (Price Waterhouse) London:
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London: Moore R J (KPMG). London: Moore S G (Coopers & Lybrand). Cardiff: More F C (BDO Sto; Hayward). Richmond: Morgan C (Rodon: Morgan J W (KPMG). London: Morgan J W (KPMG). London: Morgan M S (KPMG). Reading: Morris O G (Morison Stoneham). Swindon: Mornor D D (Whitingham). Swindon: Mornor D (Price Waterhouse). Leeds: Mountain T M (KPMG). Milson Keynes: Mousley M L (BDO Stoy Hayward). Bacup: Moyninan B J (Boltun Colby). Staines: Mukeri A (Price Waterhouse). Leeds: Murphy B (Orr Shothill). London: Murphy S A (Coopers & Lybrand). Cardiff: Murphy H S (Price Waterhouse). London: Murphy S A (Coopers & Lybrand). Cardiff: Murphy B (Price Waterhouse). London: Murphy S A (Coopers & Lybrand). London: Musselvhile: S (Dison Wilson). London: Musselv	Jersey: Quy Ls (Ashdems), London Dace Int P F (Lloyd Pisson). Manchester: Radic D (KPMG), London: Rafferty S M (Menzies), Kinyston-upon-Thames: Raithas S (KPMG), St Albans; Raith S M (Deloine & Touche), London: Raipal A K (Arthur Andersen). 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Appieton P D (KPMG). Manchester: Apsey R (Hillier Hoptins). Hemel Hempstrad; Argie D (Leitley, Rowe & Co). Kenon; Aristotelous D (Coopers & Lyband). Nicosia; Arminage J R	London: Carpenter G (Saffery Champness), London; Carrington J F (Deloitze & Touche), Cambridge: Carroll B J (Deloitte & Touche), London: Cartwright 1 [Neville Russell), Dugley; Cass T	Uprandi, London; Doyle R A (Kingston Smith), London; Drew J (Binder, Hamiya), London; Drummond J A D (Clarks), Slough; Druny K E (KPMG), Bristol; D'Souza A F (Deloine & Touche),	Bristol; Graves T A (Clark Whitehill), London; Gravestock I R (KPMG), London; Grav A W E (Lithgow, Nelson & Co), London; Gray K L (Coopers & Lybrand), Bristol; Gray B M (Coopers &	Andersen), London; Hurden M.P. (Price Waterhouse), Bristol, Hurley C.R. (Robson Rhodes), Birmingham; Hurley M.D. (KPMG), Southampion, Hurst D.E. (Rawlinson & Hunter), Ewell;	Waterhousel, London: Leeke T D (Deloitte & Touchel, Cardiff, Le Gras & KRPMGI, London, Lenord D Price Waterhousel, Manchester. Leong B W H (Cohen Arnold & Col. London; Lerner D R (Arram Bertyn)	Munro F S J (Price Waterhouse), London; Murdoch H L (KPMG), Leede: Murdoch L M (Ernst & Young), Leeds: Murphy B (Orr Shotliff), London; Murphy E E (Coopers & Lybrand), Cerdiff;	M (KPMG), Manchester: Read D H (Hazlewoods), Cheltenham; Redmayne D N (Deloifte & Touche), London; Reece K L (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Reusch T C (KPMQ), Birmingham;
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Aspien GJ (Coopers & Lybrand), Gloscester, Arack K E (Anhur Andersen), Leeds: Atkin C D (Arthur Andersen) London;	Easteigh; Chaimers D M (Coopers & Lybrand), Reading; Chamberiain J E V (Thomas May & Co), Leicester; Chambers A (Price Waterhouse), Birmingham; Chan E N C (Thoburn & Chapman), South Shields; Chan J S C (Price	Menzies). Staines: Dunne C V (Citroen Wells), London; Dunwoodle M C (Pangell Kerr Forster), London; Durant-Lewis S J (Arthur Andersen), Birmingham; Durant A M (Arthur Andersen),	Hamiya), London; Greensmith A M (Ernst & Young), Manchester; Greenwood f R (KPMG), Manchester; Greyory E L (Clarkson Hyde), Sulon; Gregory S D (KPMG), Landon; Gregory T L	T acovides F (Coopers & Lybrand). I Nicosia; l'Anson I (Coopers & Lybrand). London: Illingworth G Voisey & Co). Warrington: Imrie D F (Grant Thornton). London: inchbald C E (Coopers & Lybrand). Usbridge; loannides C (Pannell Kerr Forster). Limassol:	M (Smith Cooper & Partners),		Isbrand, London; Riddell I. D (Ernst & Young). London; Ridd- Jones S B Lathbur Anderseni, London; Ridley H (Arthur Andersen). Leeds: Ridley M J (Blenkarn, Shapkley Scott).
Aikuson A (Price Waterhouse), St Alburs, Austin P (Barnes Roffe), Datford; Austin R (Shepherd Halett), Cardiff; Avraamides A (Copers & Lybrand), Nicosia; Ayest T H (Coopers & Lybrand), Lybrand, Alexandra Reservations (Alexandra Reservations)	South Shields: Chan J S C (Price Waterhouse). London: Chandingmani I. (Deloite & Touche), London: Chapman D A (Pannell Kerr Forster). London: Chapman S E (KPMG). London: Chaudhry A (KPMG). London:	Durant A M (Arthur Andersen). London: Dutton C (KPMG), Manchester: Dutton D A (Wilson Henry & Co), Liverpool: Dwyer 7 (Coopers & Lybrand), Newcastle upon Tyne: Dyas A M (Arthur Andersen), London: Dyas L (Downward, Plumb & Colclough).	S D (KPMG). Landon; Gregory T L. (Deloine & Touche). Simmingham; Grieve L J (Price Waterhouse), Notingham; Griffin N J (KPMG). Birmingham; Griffins C H (Coopers & Lybrand). Cardiff: Griffins J M (Coopers & Lybrand). Manchester Griffins P J Dames & Uzzell). Swansea; Griffins C L (Deloine & Touche), Birmingham; Guest E M H (Price Waterhouse), London; Guisdhur T K (Hazlems.	(Pannell Kerr Forster). Limassol: loannides & A (RPMG Pear Marwick). Nicosia; Ioannides P (Alan Cooper Saunders Angel). Harrow; Ioannou P (Coopers & Lybrand). Limassol; Irani E (Blick Rothenberg). London; Ireland D C (Deloille & Touchel. London;	(Coopers & Lybrand), Liverpool; Lewis P R (BDO Stoy Hayward), Ewell; Lewis S (Reelings), Landon; Ley J A (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Li B M B (KPMG), London; Li W (Booth Ainsworth)	N augher T M (Price Waterhouse), Newcastle upon Tyne: Navaranarajah R (Derek Webster & Co), London; Naylor C D (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Neate D (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham; Neaves D C	Kendal: Righy G K (Ernst & Young), Leicester Rijsdijk E F (Coopers & Lybrand), Sheffield: Ritchie G (Price Waterhouse), St Albans; Rivers G P (Deloite & Touche), Cambridge; Roberts B L (Coopers & Lybrand), Glaucester; Roberts C H (Mitchell Charlesupph), Harmond, Poberts
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Baga M (Coopers & Lybrand), Uxiridge; Bagol S K (Casson Bekman), Londoo; Bailey M (Diolite & Touche), Leads: Baile M M (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Baker M J (Deloine & Touche), London; Baker P W	Gainstore). London: Cherry M J (Ernst & Young). Cambridge: Chong S C; Choorn S K (Hacker Young). London: Chuhan J (Ernst & Young). Newsastie upon Tyne; Church S M (Pannell Kerr Fonser). Exter; Churton T E H (Ernst & Young). London: Clare S C (Price	Touche, London: Eastwood K D [Ernst & Young), Leeds: Eccles A D E (Arthur Andersen), London: Eccleston N (Nyman Libson Paul), London: Ecclord A J (Coopers & Lybrand), Sheffield: Edenbortungh X [Beatley Jennison), Bristol;	Hamiyri, London; Gurr P N (Reeves & Neylani, Stringbourne: Gutmann A · M (Coopers & Lydrandi, Liverpool; Gwilliam S P (Frice Pearson), Dudley Li adlipieris G (Coopers &	Jackaman P. A. (Deloitte & J. Touchel, Dartford; Jackson A. R. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Jackson D. T. (Ernst & Young),	R (Erns) & Young), London; Linthwate C M (KPMG), Derby: Lipson M L (Deloine & Touche), Noningham; Linen M F (KPMG), Guerrasy; Linie S (Cansdale & Co), Linie Challont: Liutefair G (Price Waterhouse), Windson; Livadiotou	Touchel, London: Newton B A Binder Hamilyn). London: Newton P D (Arthur Andersen). London: Ng K S H (Coopers & Lybrand). Liverpool: Ng Tung Hing E (Shipleys). London; Ng W T S [Price Waterhouse). London:	Robinson G T (MacIntyre & Co). London; Robinson G R A (Price Waterbouse), Newczstle upon Tyne; Robinson H E (Casson
(Mercuest, Stocup; Saser R J (Microvorths, Blackburn; Bakhda V (Macilvin Moore), London; Badwin E (Deloitte & Touche), Soithamptort: Ball I E (Type; & Shinipabare; Ball I E (Type; &	Young), London; Clare S G [Price Waterhouse), Hull: Clark C M [Detoile & Touche], London; Clark J E [Micros Stephens, London; Clark J E [Micros Stephens, London; Clark K J T [Detoile & Touche], London; Clark L F [Detoile & Touche], London; Clark M D [Ernst & Londo	K (Bealley Jennison), Bristol; Edgar B J O (Coopers & Lybrand), Bristol; Edis C R (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Edwards F J (Coopers & Lybrand), Norwich; Edwards K (Price Waterhouse), London; Edwards S A (Pannell Kerr Forster), Norwich; Edwards S W (Smith Partnership),	Hodilpieris G (Coopers & Lightand), Umassoi; Hain G A A (BDO Stoy Hayward), Richmond: Haines N M (Hazlewoods), Cheltenham; Hainsworth A L (Binder Hamlynk London; Hail K (KPMG), Birmingham; Hale L C (Deloitie & Touche), London; Haile S R	(Arthur Andersen), London: James C B (Binder Hamiym), London: James K J (BDO Stoy Haward), London: James M J (Grant Thornton), Southardpton; Jasper H A (Coopers & Lybrand; Jersey:	waternouse, windsor: Livagiolou E (Arhur Andersen). Cambridge: Livingstone N A [KPMG], London: Lloyd D M (Delotite & Touchet, Birmingham; Lloyd G D (Grani Thornion). Shefileld: Lloyd L (Fotrester Boyd). Grimsby: Lluyd S J (Wyatt. Morris. Colland & Co), Rochdale: Lockwood J M (Clark Whitehill), London: Lothouse M P (Coppers & Lybrand).	Nicholas D (KPMG), Nottingham; Nichols P W (Price Waterhouse), London; Nichols S A (KPMG), Leeds: Nicolson A J (Burgess Hodyson), Canterbury; Nolan R A (Pannell Kerr Konsey), Doubles	Arthur Andersen). London: Robonom C D (Deloitie & Touche). Birmingham: Rock J D (Kendall Wadley). Worcester: Rodgers S (KPMG). London: Rogers A J (Coopers & Lybrand). Manchester: Rogers L A (Beever and Struthers). Manchester: Rogers N (Pierce).
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Lorand), London; Barbour P W (Clointe & Touche), Cambridge; Bardin G M (Moore & Smalley), Pesion; Barham C V (Arthur	Clayton H L (Booth Airsworth), Stockport Clament C (Coupers & Lybrand), Leeds; Clifton J P (Price Waterhouse), Bristol; Clough J (Arthur Andersen), Manchester, Coe S (Robson Rhodes), Leeds; Colley J C A (BDO Stoy Hayward),	(Coppers & Lybrand), London: Elliotr A E (RPMG), Leicester, Elliotr J H L (Price Waterhouse), London: Elliotr S M (Coppers & Lybrand), London: Ellis J V (Arthur Andersen), Leeds: Elton R J (BDO	Southampton: Hall J J (KPMG), London: Hall J W S (Anhur Andersen), London; Hall M P (Littlejohn Frazer), London; Hallam J F (Holyon, Phillips &	Andersen). London: Jennings C S (Deloite & Touche). London:	Lonsdale M D (Nadonal Audit Office), London; Lord A C T (Price	O ales A G (Neville Russell). Dudley, Oales H E (Deloitte & Touche). Leeds: O'Connell M (Morion Thornton), St Albans; Odell J R (Ernst & Young), London: O'Driscoll P J (Cooper Lancaster).	Touchej, Birmingham; Rowlett R A (Price Waterhouse), Windson Rowson J L (Arthur Andersen), Birmingham; Rudd J M (Pannell Kerr Forster), Great Yarmouth; Rudjolf G A (Arthur Andersen), Leeds; Ruell C J (Arthur Andersen),
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[Pice Waterhouse], London: Battersby R C (Casson Backman). Oxford: Baumber D C A (Price Waterhouse), Nottingham; Baylis S J (Moore Stephens), London; Bayssiers C F (KPMG), Crawley; Bearpark S D (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Beer I S (Erner & Young). Reading; Beer N S (Paher H W & Company), London; Bell C M	(BDO Stoy Hayward), London; Cooper F L (Deloitte & Touche), London; Cooper P (RPMG), Straingham; Cooper P (S.	Young, London; Felis B V J Delonte & Touchel, London; Ferriday J (Facolt Worrall)	(Coopers & Lybrand), Bristol: Handisty S. Crice Waterhouse), Newcastle upon Tyne; Harper M. A. (Ernst & Young), Nottingham; Harris A. G. (KPMG), London; Harris C. M. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Harris S. J. (BDO Stoy	(Coopers & Lybrand), London; Jones G M (Price Waterhouse). Manchester, Jones J A (Brooking, Knowles & Liwrence), Winchester, Johes K A (Price Waterhouse), Cardiff; Jones K J (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Jones M D Lybrand), London; Jones M D Lybra Waterhouse), London; Jones	M ac Donald M C (Price London; McAree N M (Erns; & Young). London: McCanhy M B C (KPMG). London: McCanhie A B (Sampson West), London: McCullagh J E	G S (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Orsborn J B (Coopers & Lybrand), London*; Osborn S M (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Osmond P C (Creaseys), Tunbridge Wells; Ostermeyer J (Larkings), Maidstone; Oswald M A (Coopers	London: Saunders Z V (Price waterhouse), Newcastle upon Tyne: Saundn K L H (KPMG), Sbuthampton: Sayer I M (Deloine & Touche), London: Scaperis J L (Arthur Andersen), Manchester; Schmidt N (Deloine & Touche),
G (Delote & Touche), London;	(Kidson's Imper), Manchester, Copie J S (KPMG), Stoke-on-Trent, Copies S P (KPMG), London; Coughlan S J (Price Balley), Bishop's Stornford; Coulson M H (Delofite & Touche), Dardord; Cousins H R (Coopers & Lybrand), Cambridge; Cox G R (Daffern & Co), Covenby; Cox H A M (Price	Burnham: Filley J Deloins & Touche, Srachrell: Filomeno A (Neville Russell), London: Firth T Deloine & Touche, Leeds; Fisher D (Coopers & Lybrand), Leeds; Fisher D J (Hughes Allen), London: Fisher J K (Arthur Andersen), London: Fisher R J	London: Harris S J (6DU Sloy) Hayward, London: Harrison M A (Salfery Champness), London: Harrison P D (Wright Visper & Co), Lincoln: Harl Dyke J P (Deloine & Touche), Bristol: Harvey D P (Erns: a Young), London: Harvey E J L (Binder Hamlyn), London: Harvey L S (Arthur Andersen), Harvey R J (Arthur Andersen), Manchester, Hashim M Z M (Price)	M T (Binder Hamlyn). Manchester, Jones M A (Coopers & Lybrand). Manchester: Jones R W A (KPMG). London: Jones S C (Price Waterhouse), Bristol; Jones S P (Coopers & Lybrand).	Price Waterhousel, London; McCullagh T J (Arthur Andersen), London; McDermött S (Ernst & Young), Cardiff; Macdonald C A (Coopers & Lybrand), Liverpool; McDonnell F K (Coopers & Lybrand), Cambridge; McDowall	& Lybrandi, London; Oswick & J (Coopers & Lybrand), London; O'Toole R L (Coopers & Lybrand), Bristol: Owen A P (National Audit Office), London	Crawley: Schonberg A S (KPMG), Birmingham: Schrum M (Anhur Andersen), London; Scoffield D T (Moores Rowland), Sevenoaks; Scott M J (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Seveno D (Delaite &
Mancheser: Bernell & Komman Puntal &Co.), Eastleigh; Benson T A S (Arthur Andersen), London; Bennick JA (KPMG), Birmingham; Bensick JA (Context Lybrari)	Waternouse, Lindin, Cox 3 L. (Arthur Andersen), Leeds; Coxon C. J. (Deloine & Touche), Nottingham; Coyle P. (Arthur Andersen), London; Craddock J. (Deloine & London); Craddock J. (Deloine &	Andersen), London; Fisher R J (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Fisher V J. Deloine & Touche), London; Fishwick C J (Coopers & Lybrand), Manchester; Fizzimmonps S Ernsi & Young), London; Flack E J (Coppers &	Binder Hamilyn), London: Harvey L S (Arthur Andersen), London: Harvey R J (Arthur Andersen), Manchester: Hashim M Z M (Price Waterhouse), London: Hawkes K A (Price Waterhouse), Southampton: Hawkey S G (Whitaker, Redieam	Mancaette Mandola S (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham: Rapour M (Morley & Scott), London; Kapour Mancaette & Tourish Mancaette	McDowell S J (KPMG), London: McGovern K A (Arthur Andersen), London: MacGregor S A (National Audit Office), London: McGuigan MJ (Frant & Young), London:	Dage S J Jarthur Anderseni. L London; Page S D (Coopers & Lybrand). Birmingham: Painter S (Deloitte & Touche). London: Panter A J (Price Waterhouse). Windsor: Papademetris M (KPMG). Waster Marry 15 (Page 1).	Touche), Newcastle upon Tyne; Scrope T O (Deloitte & Touche), Cambridge Sealy V R (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Searle D G (Ernst & Young), London; Sebok- Furton Z (Price Waserhouse), London; Seddon C D (Arthur
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Toucie), Leeds: Brehaut N. (Delotte & Touche), Guernsey: Brehran E L (Ernst & Young); London: Brereton M C (Firell Grout), Eastleigh: Brewer M G	(KPMG), Brisini: Delty B M (Price Waterhouse), London: Delaney D M (Arthur Andersen), London: Dellis J A J (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Delo T A (Knight Arnold Table Unight Arnold Table Unight Arnold Table Unight Arnold	(Delotte a C W (Neville Russell), London; Gibson R S (KPMG), Reading; Gilbert C L (Coopers a Lybrand), Reading; Gilbert P A	(KPMG). Inswich; Hollands P D (KPMG). Inswich; Holmes E E (Baker Tilly). Manchester; Holmes N S (Price Waterhouse). London; Hock IM (KPMG) [Josef Living Control of the Con	Lambert C R (Coopers & Lybrand). London: Lambert K L (BDO Stoy Hayward), Manchester: Lammin A (Deloitte & Touche). London: Lancaster A J (BDO Stoy Hayward). London: Lane D H (Brooks & Col.	Matthews D (Beloine & Touche), Newcastle upon Tyne: Matthews D (Beloine & Touche), Newcastle upon Tyne: Matthews D E (Price Waterhouse), Southampton: Mead A (Price Waterhouse), Leeds; Meehan M P	Leeds: Phillips R M (Arthur Andersen), Manchester, Philldis H (Arthur Andersen), Reading: Pietranioni L (KPMG), London; Pike N W (Binder Hamlyn), London; Pimiott M J (Deloine &	Simpson 5 J (KPMG), London; Sinclair M C (KPMG), Southampton; Sinden N G (KPMG), London; Singh A (Ernsi & Young), London; Singh I (Coopers A Lybrand), Manchester; Skelly H
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Britt K 5 (KPMG), London: Broniley J (National Audit Office), Tophyn: Bromley J H (BDO Stoy	Bracknell: Devlin P G (Walters Evans), New Malden: Dewey H G (Ernst & Young), Lefoester: Dhanani A N (Kingston Smith), London: Diekson A C (Coopers & Lybrand), London: Dina R	Touchel, Birmingham; Gilliver C P Newby Castleman), Licester; Gillott T A (Deloitte & Touche), Birmingham; Ginns C L (Everent Collins & Loosley), Leighton Buzzard; Gleadhill N S (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Glead C L (Ernst & Young), Reading; Godwin P A (Ernst & Young), London;	Andersen), Cambridge, Hornby R J (Coopers & Lybrand), London: Hoskin J H (Deloite & Touche), London; Hoskins C (Thoburn & Chapman). South Shields: Houghton D J (Albert Goodman), Yeovil; Howani C L (Lings), Derby; Howard N I (KPMG), St Albans:	Lansdell D (Turistali & CO). Warrington: Latham N (Delolite & Touchel, Birmingham: Lauf 5 Y (Linlejohn Frazer), London: LauT; Lawrence H L (Haines Watts), Birmingham: Lawrenson W	Swindon: Menon C. (Copers a Lybrond), London: Merican J M (Price Waterhouse), London: Merrey P R (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Melsuas C (KPMG Peat Mgrwick), Limassol: Michel S A Horkson, Fort Lerger Michel A J	(Ernst & Young), Liverpool: Pooley M 2 (London: Transport), London: Ponel N (Knox Cropper), London: Portas S (Fisher H W & Company), London: Porter N (Fisher, Sassion & Marks), London: Portnoy M J (Price Waterhouse), Manchester.	Touche), London: Sloman A G hcPMGI, Plymouth; Sloper C A fcoopers a Lybrandi, Uxbridge
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Chartered accountants continued | Chartered Accountants' Credit List



Uddin M (KPMG), London; Underwood J R (Price Waterhouse), London; Unstead-Joss M (Deloitte & Touche), Birmingham

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The following candidates have ob-tained credit for the subjects shown in capitals against their names. Credits obtained previously by these candidates are shown in lower case. API=Auditing and Professional Issues: FR=Financial Reporting: MIC=Management Information & Control, BPF=Business Planning & Finance: TAX=Tayation.

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(Neville Russell). London;
Williams J C (KPMG). London;
Williams R (Deloitte & Touche).
Birmingham; Williams R D
(Stephens F W & Co), London;
Williams R L (Ernst & Young).
Luton: Williams S K (Price
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(Coopers & Lybrand). Cardiff;
Williamson J L (Hawsons),
Sheffield: Williamson K A
(Deloitte & Touche), Cambridge;
Williamson K A (Deloitte &
Touche). Birmingham: Willis A R
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Willis L M (Coopers & Lybrand).
London: Wills J C (Coopers &
Lybrand). London; Wilson J C
(Myers Clark), Warford; Wilson M
(Deloitte & Touche). Leeds;
Wilson A (Price Waterhouse),
Wilson O E (Clark Whitehill).
London: Wilson S M B (Ernst &
Young). London: Wilson S L G
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Burton). Royston: Winstanley C E
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Liverpool: Wise A T (Arthur
Andersen). London; Wiseman P
M (Coopers & Lybrand). London;
Wolfe A J (Arthur Andersen).
Leeds; Wong J Y W (Ferguson
Maidment & Co). London: Wong
S L M (Simmons Gainsford).
London: Wond H E (Coopers &
Lybrand). Reading: Wood A M
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G P (Coopers & Lybrand). London;
Wood J P (Arthur Andersen).
Reading: Wood H E (Coopers &
Lybrand). Reading: Wood J R
(National Audit Office). London;
Wood J P (Arthur Andersen).
London: Woodsey R J (Cooper Lancaster Brewers), London; Wood
G P (Coopers & Lybrand). London;
Woolley M J (Ernst & Young).
London; Woodsey R J (Cooper Lancaster Brewers), London;
Woodward X J (KPMG).
Huddersfleid: Wood, Cambridge;
Worlders Beld: Wood Server Filly, Guildford: Wright D
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London; Woolsey R J (Coopers &
Lybrand). Manchester

Y ardley H (Clark Whitehili).
I London; Yates J J R (Arthur Andersen). London; Yates L J (Arthur Andersen). Cambridge; Yeap C K H (Ernst & Young), Manchester; Yeung) M (Coopers & Lybrand). London: Yeung K K Y (Ernst & Young), Newcastle upon Tyne; Young B T (Coopers & Lybrand), Northampton; Young JG T (Rothman Pantal) & Co J. London: Yu J C Y (Price Waterhouse), London

Zaharia V S (Coopers & Lybrand), Nicosia; Zaheer K (Kingston Smith), Upminster; Zaidifard R S (Jacob, Cavenayh & Skeet), Sutton; Zinar R M (Deloitte & Touche), London These candidates have been required to pass four papers at intermediate. In the fifth subject, Taxation, they must successfully complete a scheme of competence-

These candidates are required to pass four papers at Intermediate. In the lifth subject, Tazation, they must successfully complete a scheme of competence-led assessment.

A bdul Razak M N. FR. mic, BPF.

A TAX: Abdulish W R (Price Waterhouse). London. API. FR. BPF.

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BOXING

Bowe's foe can upset odds again

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN ATLANTIC CITY

BOXING people never learn. After the destruction of Mike Tyson by Evander Holyfield, a tired and sick old man", it seemed that the prediction business had been counted out once and for all: but the experts are at it again.

They are forecasting that Riddick Bowe will conclusively beat Andrew Golota, of Poland, thereby expunging the memory of the pasting that Bowe was receiving in their bout last summer before Golota was disqualified for

low punches.
As in the film Double Indemnity their reasoning fits rogether like a watch. Last time Bowe was overweight and took Golota lightly: this time he has trained for three months, lost 43lb to weigh in at lost lilb, the weight he was for his first bout with Holyfield, in 1992. His hand speed and mobility are back, so he just cannot lose.

As Bowe said: "Now Dorothy Bowe's baby boy is focused on one thing — giving Andrew Golota a good old-fashioned butt-whippin' in what will be my best performance ever. You can count on it."

One expert analysing Bowe's chances said: "In July he was only using his right hand. That's typical of a man who hasn't trained. He wants to get him out quickly. This time he will be using both hands, doubling up and tre-bling up. With the controlled loss of weight his endurance threshold has gone way up and so, too, has his skill level."

It all seems to make perfect sense, until you realise that what Golota will be bringing to the bout has been ignored What if Bowe's rediscovered speed and power has as much effect on Golota as Tyson's did on Holyfield? It is difficult to

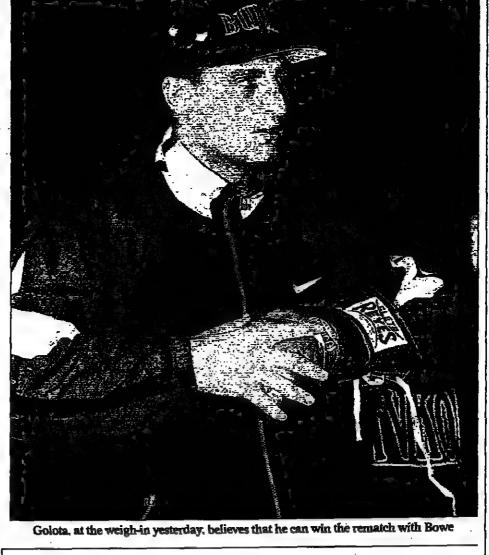
FOOTBALL

overlook the fact that, even if Bowe is in the best shape of his life, one cannot be certain about his mental preparation. If Golota were simply a puncher or a bully or a braggart, or in any way a hollow man, he would not be able to stand up to the type of two-fisted assault that demolished Jesse Ferguson in two rounds. Unfortunately for Bowe

though, Golota is made of sterner stuff. He weighed in 4lb heavier than Bowe. He is quiet, introspective and tough; he has good boxing skills and some clever moves. When the going gets rough, he is not slow to get stuck in. As he said, when asked why he threw those low blows against Bowe in their first meeting: "Sometimes you have to protect yourself." When he was asked what he thought about Bowe looking past him to a bout with Tyson, Golota replied: Good, two losers together. Bowe was embarrassed by the first fight, so he's talking so much now; but I've been ready to confront him in the ring."

Bowe will almost certainly take the bout to Golota early to show him who is the boss. If Bowe is successful in keeping Golota on the end of his punches, then his class should tell. The possibilities are that the bout will be another rough encounter, with Golota engaging in a brawl at the end. If were to happen, Bowe would be the one to come out second best.

The New Jersey State Ath-letic Commission has insisted that every precaution is taken to prevent the riot that followed the previous Bowe and Golota bout happening again. As a result, 50 policemen will be in the 20,000-capacity hall. A private security force has



SNOOKER

Bond breezes into last four

FROM PHIL YATES IN OSNABRÜCK

semi-finals of the German Open by beating Mark Davis at the Roberts Barracks here yesterday.

Bond, the winner of the British Open and Rothmans Malta Grand Prix titles during 1996, set up a meeting with Stephen Hendry or Ronnie O'Sullivan this evening by recording a 5-2 victory over Davis, 24, from St Leonards-

Having won a scrappy opener, and fashioned an 83 break in the second frame. Bond smoothly moved 3-0 ahead with a clearance of the colours to pink after an ili-

NIGEL BOND reached the advised attempt from Davis to pot the last red down the side cushion using the rest. At that stage a whitewash

ppeared a likely outcome, but Davis managed to settle down and recovered to trail only 3-2 with runs of 47, 30 and 46 before shot selection once again let him down badly. Leading 45-27 at an ad-

vanced juncture of a disjointed sixth frame, Davis had the option to roll the cue ball in behind the green for a snooker. However, he chose to take on a tricky blue to a middle pocket, which he overcut, and Bond gratefully cleared to pink for a 4-2 advantage.

John Higgins, who completed a 5-1 win over Mark Williams on Thursday night with a magnificent 140 total clearance, said yesterday that he had been left jaded by a heavy recent competitive schedule and is looking forward to being "demobbed" from this army-base venue tomorrow.

pected to figure in the best-of-17-frame final tomorrow as he now plays Alain Robidoux, whom he has defeated on each of their previous three

Higgins is confidently ex-

SAILING

Tomkinson suffers as squalls • sweep in

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE BT Global Challenge fleet has suffered its first significant equipment failure on the second leg through the Southern Ocean, with 3Com. skippered by David Tomkinson, reporting the loss of her forestay in heavy squalls on Thursday.

The crew managed to save the mast by jury-rigging a replacement, made up of a genoa halyard and a spinna-ker halyard. Andrew Roberts, the race technical director. said that a 14mm stainless steel wire had sheared close to the fitting on the mast. He said that this may have

been the result of an "articulation problem" with the toggle at the masthead end. If the toggle is prevented from moving freely, undue loading can occur further down the stay, where the breakage

On hearing of the incident, Roberts asked all the other skippers in the race to make checks, which revealed no recurrence of the problem. However, Save The Children. skippered by Andy Hindley. which has once again taken the lead from Mike Golding. on Group 4, has reported that a strand in her backstay has broken. This is slightly more puzzling: the loading on the backstay is relatively light. 3Com has managed to hold

on to tenth place despite her difficulties, and Tomkinson is hopeful that he will be able to re-rig the steel stay when conditions improve.

The crews still have a long way to go to Wellington where the first of them is expected to arrive on about December 30. Weather conditions have been very difficult with sudden squalls sweeping across the fleet increasing wind strength from 30 to 55 knots in minutes. This has meant a lot of deck work in big seas, as reefs and sail changes continue night and day.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXEDRES

(21) Brighton v Hull (22) Cambridge Utd v Wigen World Cup Burgoami o

sperars v Leek, Boston v Runcom Emisy v Chorley, Knowsky v Bishop Auckland Lancastor v Gainsbiorough Spermymor v Marino Winstond v Bander Bridge, Wilson v Minister Winstond v Bander Bridge, Wilson v Innade v Lincoth United Congleton v Workington, Curzon Astron v Winstoy Bay, Eastward Town v Droylscam Pieton v Atherton LR. Gricha v Hemogale Town, Legin v Matlock Town, Ministeried v Bradford Pir Ava, Warnington v Farsley Celtic

(40) Brechin v Queen of South (41) Dumbarton v Hamilton ...

Tennents Scottish Cup First round

Pearment y airssooms interagent both v Beaconsteld SYCOB. Ialington St. Marye v Barknogsder. Watham Abony v Rushing Maron Woodbord v St. Margarestatury Mill ERVA. COUTH WOULD LEASUE. Premer christon: Stogleswade v Royston Brache Sparts v Potiers Bar, Herpenden v Welsyn Gerderr Langdord v London Colorin. Mill of the Sparts v Potiers Bar, Herpenden v Welsyn Gerderr Langdord v London Colorin v Leschworth SOUTH EAST COUNTES LEAGUE. And thision: Cambridge (Int v Totenham (I I I), Chebsa v Mill off II II I), Fulham v Portamodh III II II; Ipsanch v Giftingham (I II I), Leyton Chiert v Charlton (I I I), Suchern v Portamodh III II I); Ipsanch v Giftingham (I II I), Leyton Chiert v Charlton (I II I), Fulham v Portamodh III II I); Ipsanch v Wycombo (II II I), Leyton Chiert v Charlton (I II I), Sworth v Arzenal (I II I); West Ham v Southerd (I II I), Leyton Chiert v Charlton (I II I), Chidrid Uri v Barcel (I II I); Sworthon V Wycombo (I II I), Luton v Bristol Cay (I I II); Chidrid Uri v Barcel (I II I); Sworthon v Busines (I II I); Luton v Bristol Cay (I I II); Chidrid Uri v Barnel (I II I); Sworthon v Bournerrouth (II II); Tomenham v Barceldon (I I I) Winbledon v Barnel (I II I); Sworthon v Bournerrouth (II II); Tomenham v Barceldon (I I I) Winbledon v Barnel (I II I); Sworthon v Bournerrouth (I II I); Tomenham v Barceldon (I II I) Winbledon v Barnel (I II I); Wholedon v Welston v West Marken v Welston v West Marken v V West Marken v Sworthon v Dockston v Sworthon v Sworthon v Supermanne.

FEDERATION EREMFERY NORTHERN Wholedon v Barnel (I II I); Wholedon

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FOOTBALL ých-alf 3 0 unless stated FA Cerling Premieratep

Bristol City v Bristol Rovers (1.0)

TOMORROW 20); Havani v Surbiton (at Hevani College 2.15) First division: Doncaster v Hull (at Bermethorpe, 2.0); Shelfield v Lewcs (at Abbeydola Pork, 1.0)

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCH: St Fagans v Rediand RUGBY UNION international match

Wales v South Africa (al Cardiff Arms Park, 3 0)

CLUB MATCHES (3.0). Moseley v Gloucester West Hartlepool v Newcastle SRU UNDER-18 RVTET-DISTRICT COM-PETITION (2.0) Edinburgh v Caledonia Reds (at Musselburgh). Glasspow v Scottish Borders (at Kilmernock).

OTHER SPORT

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: East Grinstead v Hourstow (at Saint Hill, 130), Southgate v Teddington (at Broom-held School, 2 (I). First division: Edgbession Constant (at Bermingham University, 130);

Shafield Bankers v Southport: Springhetis v Hamogate.

MEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Aylesbury v Walkyn Garden City Bedford v St Neots Bridgmorth v Bournville: Chesterfield v Burton Hamow v Hondom Hereford v Almondsbury: Lydney v Cardit; Wednesbury v Ched Corbett, Weer Wilts v Robinsons

bury v Chad Corbett, Weer Witte v Robinsons
WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Carribridge City v Welvyn Gardon City; Harleston Magpias v Bury St Edmunds; Ioswich v Beweighraeth, Severoalts v Ashiord South: City of Portsnouth v Dutwich: Horsham v Winchester; Ioswich v Hampstead; Winchnore Hill v Tukse Hill; Worthing v Reading WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES; BAC v Nawyort Bedford v West Winer; Essicole v Southgate: East Glouce v Baint: Beller v Yato; Gloucester City v West Bromwich; Havant v Naw Sautin. Havanti v Baller v Yato; Gloucester City v West Bromwich; Havant v Naw Sautin. Havanti v Barteng, Northampton v Croord Hawks; Old Loughvonens v Reading; Richmond v East Gensoed; Southgate v Enfett; Worthing v Wolding; Wycombe Rye v Ras BRITISH AEROSPACE ENGLISH SCH-OOLS CHAMPIONSHIP: North (Stanley Perk, Blackpool, 10 9)

RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY UNION Kick-oft 2 30 unless stated

Orrell v Newport (2 0) .

Blackrock College v Old Wesley Dungarnon v Ballymena instonians v St Mary's College Old Belveders v Young Munster Old Crescent v Lancdowne ... Shannon v Cork Constitution

little





MORROW'S TEAM

(11.0). Glasgow High/Kolvinsol v Kinnernock (11.0): Glasgow Academicals v
Gordonians (11.0): Glasgow Academicals v
Gordonians (11.0): Grangemouth v Biogar
(11.0). Haddington v Duritermine (11.0):
Havani v High Wycombe, Leeds v Notingham (3.0): London Inah v London Sootish
(12.0). Marthyr v Carditt, North Richiesdals
v Whartedale (2.15): Plymouth v Torquar
Preston Grasshoppers v Hill loniens (2.15)
Reading v Herriey (2.15): Richmond v
London Weish (11.30), Sandal v Middlesbrough (2.15). Sheffield v Mortey, String
Courtly v Ayr (11.0), Vale of Lune v Fytck
Waldali v Stoke; Waterloo v Boroughmur;
Weston-super-Mare v Taunton (12.30):
Wordester v Spartans.
SRU TENNENTS (556 CUP: Second
round: Lochaber v Marr
INTER-PROVINCIAL UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: Lentster v Uister

Tomis THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 1996

Scotland looking to hone vital edge in experience



Hastings: brought back to win his 63rd cap

WALES have met South Afri-

ca nine times in the past 90

years and have never beaten them. The nearest they came

to registering a win was in

1970 when Gareth Edwards's

try in the northeast corner of

the Arms Park secured a draw

in the closing stages.
Wales suffered heavy losses

on the two occasions that the

countries met on South Afri-

can soil, but they can take

some consolation in recognis-

ing that the margins at home

have been nowhere near so

devastating. In reality, though, no international com-

petitor should take any com-

desolating statistics. None of

the other home countries can

this should be a

stare at so bare a cupboard.

motivating factor. For sure.

Wales need to look somewhere

for inspiration, even if it is

only to a long history of failure

against the republic. This can

work wonders on a one-off

occasion, but what Wales need

is a victory, which might also

help to reverse the trend that shows that, of the four teams

that they have beaten in their

11 outings this year, only France, in the five nations'

championship last season, can

be numbered among the elite.

Italy (twice) and the Barbar-

ians are the others. These are

dispiriting statistics.
For their part, South Africa

arrive in Wales on the back of

a monumental series against

New Zealand in which, if they

failed overall, they did win the

last international match. This

was followed by two wins

against Argentina and a suc-

t four

BY MARK SOUSTER

THOSE harbingers of doom who usually emerge at this time of year, to lament lacklustre autumnal performances and predict humiliation in the nations' championship, will be waiting to pounce should Scotland fail to dispatch Italy in anything less than convincing fashion at

Murrayfield today. In the past two years, the scentics have been confounded by Scotland's ability to put a new year gloss on pre-Christmas dross. The fact remains, however, that, after four con-secutive defeats, the Dumblane match notwithstanding. Scotland cannot afford another setback before their five nations' campaign begins on Italy yesterday named a side

showing six changes, two of them positional, from that soundly beaten by England. Marcello Cunitta has been persuaded to end his retirement and will play on the left

RUGBY UNION

Little consolation

in bare statistics

for hungry Wales

cessful two-match series in

France. After a long period of isolation and the hesitant mart

that followed their sporting integration, this tour has rep-

resented their first substantial

success away from their home

fluid in their running or as

flexible in their tactics as New

Zealand, but their old virtues

of power, stubborn resilience and fierce pride are there in

abundance. For the fifth con-

secutive time, their team re-

mains unchanged. Through

such familiarity we are beginning to understand where

Nothing of the sort can be

said about their opponents.

The Wales team is in a state of flux. They won more than 55 per cent of lineout possession

in all their matches last sea-

son, but lost this phase by 21-9

against Australia a fortnight

ago. So Derwyn Jones, who

their reputation is made.

South Africa may not be as

right. Vaccari, who scored two second-half tries against England, switches to centre Croci at lock forward and

Expectation proved too great a burden for Italy at Twickenham, or, as Massimo Giovanelli, their captain, said: The emotion of the occasion was too much for us." Now, however, with a recognised ball-winner in Croci back in the fold, Italy believe that they can take another significant step towards their ambition of forcing the expansion of the five nations' championship to one of six nations from 1998.

After a rigorous two-hour workout at a bright but bitingly cold Boroughmuir RFC ground yesterday, Giovanelli said: "It is important that we do well. We know Scotland in front of a Murrayfield crowd will be very difficult to beat, but I want the boys to experience things like this, and new ways of playing, like the

was present throughout last

season, has been dropped to

allow Mark Rowley to win his

first cap at 32. Dale McIntosh

also wins his first cap at blind-

side flanker and is accompanied on the flank by Colin

Charvis, who starts a match for the first time, having gone on for the injured Hemi Tay-

lor in the last game.

There is further uncertainty

elsewhere which clouds any assessment of Wales. Neil

Jenkins, dropped from stand-off half for the last match,

returns to play, but at full back, while Daiydd James,

normally a centre for his club;

has his second chance on the

Gareth Thomas drops out

because of a mouth injury and

is replaced by Allan Bateman, who won the last of his four

caps in 1990 before joining

Wairington to play rugby

league. After a period in Australia he is now with

Richmond and had a fine

match for the Barbarians last

weekend when he scored a try.

Thus, with Scott Gibbs and Jonathan Davies, he hopes to

resume a midfield trio which

last played together in the rugby league World Cup last

year. Wales had, however, to

send Davies home with suspected flu after training. A decision on whether he plays

So it is very much a contest

between a well-proven and

will be made this morning.

want to demonstrate that we are good players."

wing, with Mazzucato on the Scottish rucking. That is the full Scotland side in all but right. Vaccari, who scored two only way we will improve. We name — and one that went on to contest a grand slam might be asking too much of them on this occasion, but Scotland will be aware of the

TODAY'S TEAMS AT MURRAYFIELD

N Mazzucato (Padc.a)

Marcello Cuttitta Ciliani

P Vaccari (Calvisano)

D Dominouez (Milan)

A Troncon (Treviso)

G Croci (M.ian)

A Sgorion (Treviso)

O Arancio (Milan)

15 J Pertile (Roma)

R J S Shepherd (Melsose) A G Stanger (Hawick) S Hastings (Walsonerd) K M Logan (Stirling County)

M I Wallace (Glasgow HK)

A Smith (Glovesus) E W Peters (Bath) Referee: D Gillet (France)

REPLACEMENTS: 15 D A Starts (Melrose), 17 B R S Eriksson (I Scot-tish), 18 D Patterson (Henot's), 19 G W Weir (Ne castid), 20 B O Starts

showed against England that, given a modicum of possession, they can compete with

italy regard the Twickenham debacle as a hiccup in their otherwise smooth progress towards their goal of a place at the high table of European rugby.
Richie Dixon, the Scotland

dangers of underestimating

opponents who will lack noth-

ing in commitment and who

coach, compares them favour-ably with France, in their approach. "If you give them the opportunity they are as good as the French," he said. They can play a hard-driving game and are learning the importance of sound delence. We will also have to up our effort in the lineout compared with Australial."

To that end, and after only five first-team games for Wasps. Andy Reed has been recalled and is back in harness with Damian Cronin. The pair are too streetwise to let Italy dictate at the lineout, but Italy will not be intimidated in the scrummage, despite the absence through injury of Curti, Mattie Stewart, the one new Scotland cap, at tight-head, is guaranteed a fierce

With the threat offered by Italy on the flanks, the recall of Scott Hastings at outside centre for his 63rd cap makes sound sense. The Scotland threequarters, who share more than 200 caps, have experience to spare, a commodity that an evolving Italy team may find hard to

Scotland will have to be clinical, convert their chances and not panie or become frustrated should the going get tough. "I think there will be two reasonably-matched sides out there tomorrow and, as with all internationals, it will be decided by whoever wants to win the most," Dixon said. However, anything other than an emphatic victory for Scorland would bring the critics

Reed rises above ravages of injury

Mark Souster reports

on a remarkable

return to the international fold

n every sportsman's life there comes a time when L he has to admit, however reluctantly, that enough is enough. Either his career has run its natural course or injury and its ravaging ill-effects have curtailed it. For Andy Reed that moment came 12 months ago, when recovery from a debilitating back injury seemed unlikely and retirement appeared the only option. Surveying the useless scaffolding of his 6ft 7in body, he turned to Sarah, his wife, and said: "Let's just get back to

Cornwall and forget rugby." "I felt so down then," Reed said after his recall to the Scotland team to play Italy today. "I love Cornwall and the sea, messing about on boats and the like. I don't know what I would have done; it seemed the best place to go.

Cornwall, more precisely Bodmin, is of course where Reed began his rapid journey to the pinnacle of international rugby, first with Bath, then Scotland, for whom he qualified via his mother, and uitimately, with the British Isles, all in the space of two years. It was a voyage of discovery rudely interrupted by a pro-lapsed disc in December 1994. An operation was necessary but complications set in and seven months after delicate surgery on his spine, in February last year, he was back at

square one. "With hindsight I did not get the proper advice on how to counter the effects of the operation," Reed said. "I had set the World Cup as a target for a comeback but soon realised that was out of the question. The back was still sore and there were times when it felt that my left leg had

been caught in a vice." For help, he turned to the Scottish Rugby Union and Jimmy Graham, its orthopaedic surgeon. It was discovered that scar and nerve tissue had fused together; another operaion and monins of untensiv physiotherapy and manipulation at the hands of Glen Hunter, in Bristol, brought

renewed hope. By the end of last season he had recovered sufficiently to earn a place on the bench for the Pilkington Cup final. By then, though, his relationship with Bath had soured, partly because he felt that the club had abandoned him to his own devices after the operation. Overtures were made by London Scottish, but, at the

last minute, Wasps stepped in.

Tive games later and with his second-row partnership with Damian Cronin rekindled, Reed soon showed that he still possessed the ability that Scotland have sorely missed. That opinion was reinforced when Arthur Hastie, the Scotland manager. watched his progress on the recent Exiles' tour to Spain

and Portugal. "When I joined Wasps I was just delighted to get the opportunity to play again," Reed said. "I realised I was missing it, but playing again for Scot-land didn't really enter my head then. Things have gone pretty well, though. Now being back in the international side is a dream.

"I've missed two five nations championships, a World Cup and a tour to New Zealand, I'm 27 now and I'll take one game at a time. I'm fitter and stronger than I have ever been. I just hope I can stay clear of injury, and play at least two seasons of unbroken rugby in the top flight." Italy, with whom Scotland have a few old scores to settle, would seem a good starting point.

Castellani plays at tight-head. A repeat of the win in Rieti earlier this year against the

C M Chalmers (Metrase BW Redpath (Manico) D I W Hilton (Bath) K D McKenzie (Stirling County M Stewart (Northampton

D F Cronin (Wasps) A I Reed (Wasps)

C Orlandi (Milan) A Castellani (Treviso M Giovanetti (PUC) W Cristofoletto (Trevico

REPLACEMENTS: 15 A MOSCOND



Telchmann, centre, has proved a towering influence in presiding over the South Africans' recent resurgence

Teichmann has will to succeed

o how do you follow in the footsteps of a man who has become the idol of a nation, who has held the World Cup aloft, who walks and talks with presi-dents? In 1995 Francois Pienaar became the symbol of a new South Africa, politicised in a way that few captains of sporting teams

successful combination strong in confidence and rewill ever know. Hence the public forore laxed in the certainty of their play - and a team of mixed identity, unsure of themselves and unclear of the way forwhen he was omitted from the South African party whose tour of Argentina and ward. It will require a huge effort on Wales's part to even Bateman and Gareth Liewellyn, the lock, missed training yesterday because of a derailment near Reading.

They were on their way to join the Wales session at the Institute of Sport, in Cardiff, which would have Gary Teichmann. Well, those on the outside been particularly valuable for Bateman, whose place in the team was confirmed only on ☐ Mark Jones, of Ebbw Vale. has received a four-week suspension after being sent off for punching, but Vale officials

David Hands on the man chosen to lead South Africa out of the shadows

France concludes tomorrow Bartmann, he took them to the in the one-off international against Wales. Whatever his Currie Cup final opponents may think of At-dre Markgraaff, the man-ager/coach of South Africa, it and offered a successful defence this season when was the bravest of decisions Natal beat Transto discount Pienaar, nor can it vaal, Pienaar and have been easy for the player all, in the final. who now leads South Africa, Teichmann, 29, is the classic ex-

may think that. Teichmann appears remarkably at ease with the role, perhaps because sportsmen accept the inevitability of injury or swings in selectorial judgments. The impression created by Teichmann, the No 8 from Natal - and verified by those who know him best - is that he is a player's player. quiet off the field but a dynamic influence on it. Teichmann, born in Zimba-

bwe but brought up on his parents' farm near Pietermarwhat South Africa need in the post-World Cup era. Just as Pienaar offered inspired leaditzburg, has never appeared a natural leader. Asked about ership during 1993-95 (though his experiences as captain, he few would necessarily joked that, at Hilton College, include him in their optimum his school, he captained the South Africa XV of that cricket team - once; yet last period), now is a time for season, when he was invited reflection and regrouping to lead Natal in succession to and Teichmann has helped to the grim-visaged Waal draw his touring party together after the frenzy

'He helped the party together

ample of a late developer. When we asked him to captain Natal we did so because we knew the players respected him and would follow him," Andy Keast, then director of rugby in the province and now coaching director at Harlequins, said. "He's a shrewd man, he studies the game - he was always asking for videos of possible opponents - and he leads by example." He may be, indeed, exactly

lectors two months ago. "Captaincy was never an ambition of mine, but I was in the side when Francois was captain, then he got

of criticism

heaped on the se-

injured and I was asked to do the job," Teichmann, 6ft 5in and 15st 10lb, said. "When all the fuss was going on in Johannesburg about the tour party. I was down in Durban concentrating on the Currie Cup final and, immediately after that, we left for Argentina. and all the attention was turned off.

"During the tri-nations se-ries |against Australia and New Zealandl, I came to understand that players

not on past performance. Just because certain players helped to win the World Cup didn't mean they were going to play, although we have ten of those players with us.

"All the players wanted to know the reasons behind the Pienaar story and the management gave them to us. I spoke to the players, too. I told them that anyone who didn't want to come on tour. play good rugby and enjoy themselves should pull out." Already Teichmann had

proved his capabilities in the Currie Cup final. Natal were on the receiving end of the referee's whistle and their tries had been overtaken by Transvaal penalty goals, Several players were on the brink of losing control, but Teichmann pulled them together and the match was won. In the international against

France in Bordeaux last month be pulled similar strings when his side began to lose concentration. Should he prove victorious tomorrow in Wales, the country against whom he made his international debut in September last year, it will be South Africa's sixth successive win, which would be testimony to a new management, new captain and the start, perhaps, of a new era.

WALES N R Jankins (Pontypridd) (C Evans (Lienelli) A G Bateman (Richmond) J Davins (Cardill)

IS Gibbs (Swensea) D James (Bridgend) R Howley (Cardiff) C D Loader (Swans D Young (Cardiff) D L M McIntosh (Pontyorida) G O Liewellyn (Hariequins) M Rowley (Pontypridd) C Charvis (Swans

Referee: S Lander (England) REPLACEMENTS: 16 A C Thomas (Swanssa), 17 P John (Portypridd), 18 L B Davies (Carcill), 19 N Thomas (Bath), 20 L Mustoe (Car-dil), 21 G R Jenkins (Swanssa).

SOUTH AFRICA

Davies, sent home

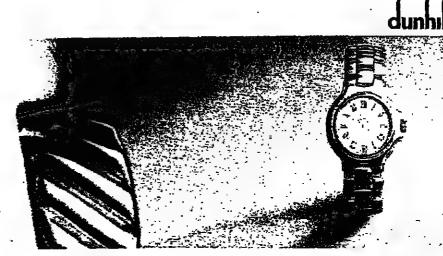
A J Joubert (Natal) J T Smell (Netal) J C Mulder (Transvasi H P in Roux (Transvazi J Olivier (Northern Transveal (Ists/) fledinoH W H

D Theron (Griqualand West) J Delton (Transvaal) A.C Garvey (Natal) R J Kruiger (N Transvar M G Andrews (Natal) A G Venter (Free State)

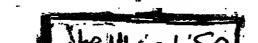
TV: 68C2 250pm REPLACEMENTS: 16 A H Snyman (N Transveal), 17 W Fyvie (Natal), 18 K B Putt (Natal), 19 F J van Heerden

are planning an appeal as G H Teichmann (Natal) Jones would miss important league games. Stuart Evans, the Swansea prop, dismissed after fighting with Jones in a club game last month, is still waiting to hear his fate.





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CHELTENHAM

Greystoke chasers can enjoy rich pickings

THE Gordon Richards dream of winning the King George VI Chase and Cheltenham Gold Cup can receive a double boost this afternoon in the two feature steeplechases screened on relevision.

One Man faces the winners of last season's Grand National and Sun Alliance Chase in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock, but will be odds on to oblige and justify his position as a short-priced favourite for the King George at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Less than half-an-hour later, Addington Boy heads the

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BELLS LIFE (2.10 Lingfield Park) Next best: Tarrock (12.10 Lingfield Park)

weights in the £60,000-added Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham and a clear-cut victory would increase his chances of joining The Grey Monk and One Man at the Festival in March. Although the eightear-old has not received the kind of hype reserved for his better-known stablemates. Richards said of his eightyear-old: "One day, he could

surprise us all in a big 'un." The Tripleprint has tended in recent seasons to go to progressive chasers near the bottom of the weights, but this year's renewal is not up to the quality of previous runnings. Old Bridge gurgled at Kempton and bled last time at Newbury, which is hardly encouraging: Bertone is likely to struggle in this company, along with All For Luck. Big Matt does not run well at Cheltenham and Go Universal looks in the grip of the



Beatson, who won at Plumpton on Tuesday, followed up in style at Cheltenham yesterday

handicapper after his exploits last season.

Northern Hide, formerly with Arthur Moore, is quite well handicapped but without a recent run, which leaves a trio of Irish runners as the main opposition. Belvederian is a sketchy jumper, while the front-running Royal Mount-browne may find this ground too lively. Anabatic ran well in the Murphy's Gold Cup but will be hard pressed to beat Addington Boy on only 3lb

better terms. Addington Boy, who might have won the Murphy's but for slipping on the final turn. can gain deserved compensation here and complete a Richards double, initiated by

As usual, the best betting opportunities are to be found away from the gaze of the television cameras, notably at Lingfield, which stages a firstclass card, including the best staying novice chase so far this

With recent winners, such as Pleasure Shared, Buckhouse Boy and Pharanear, lining up for the £20,000-added Lowndes Lambert December Novices' Chase (1.40). Treasure Again makes considerable each-way appeal. The Merrita Jones-trained runner looked like winning on his chasing debut at Worcester 12 days ago before being outbattled on the run-in. Significantly, he wears blinkers

1.15 PETROS HANDICAP CHASE (\$6,782: 2m) (6 runners)

for the first time.

Mrs Jones, who is enjoying such a successful season, can do backers a favour in the opener (12.10) when she sends out Tarrock to take on the likely Martin Pipe-trained favourite, Potentate. The improving mud-lover is better off at the weights compared to when the pair met on fast ground at Chepstow last season and should be fit enough

مكذابي الاحل

to do himself justice today. On the same card, Bells Life may offer some value in the TJH Group Limited Chase (2-K). The Philip Hobbs chaswho goes particularly well left-handed tracks and in the mud, impressed when winning at Chepstow over 21/2 miles and should be suited by today's extra four furlongs.

2.05: There will be plenty of

2.15 TOMMY WHITTLE CHASE (£10,114: 3m) (7 runners)

HAYDOCK PARK

1.15: The in-form Political

Tower has a good chance of

completing a quick treble in

an uncompetitive affair. The front-running Clay County is a course and distance winner,

but is plenty high enough in

the handicap. Sound Reveil-

le's first preference is at

Cheltenham, while the Jim-

my Fitzgerald pair of Sybillin

and Native Mission both return after a lengthy ab-

1.45: Richard Dunwoody is

an interesting booking for the

trained Tibetan, who looked

very useful when winning at

Sandown on his second start

over hurdles. Silver Shred,

who won here last winter, ran

his best race when third

Toff, twice a winner over

course and distance, still

looks ahead of the handicap-

per despite winning his last

four starts. A line through

Mytton's Choice suggests he

CHELTENHAM

CHANNEL 4

stands out after making all

Gunner at Stratford and As-

cot. The value of the Stratford

form has been boosted by the

subsequent handicap suc-

cesses of third-placed Gener-

al Mouktar. The Kim Bailey-

trained Southern Nights did

particularly well to win again

at Towcester a week ago

when stepping back in trip

and further improvement can

be expected.

Carole's Crusader

can prevail.

and will be thereabouts.

Herries-owned and

Pridwell to upset Large Action in Bula Hurdle

TODAY'S RACES

pace here with Bimsey, Muse and Morstock all liking to run from the front. That should suit Large Action, who is stepping back to two miles, after winning at Fairyhouse earlier this month, when Theatreworld was seven lengths away in third,

ON TELEVISION

Aidan O'Brien's runner is likely to finish closer this time, but this race looks ripe for an upset and Pridwell fits the bill. Martin Pipe's runner behind Castle Sweep at is not the most trustworthy individual but he goes partic-Chepstow seven weeks ago However, Tullymurry ularly well here (third in the Champion Hurdle) and is best caught first time out.

2.40: See left.

3.15: Imperial Vintage did not get past the first fence at Leicester earlier this week, but is ideally suited by prevailing ground conditions. He is preferred to General Pongo, a winner in heavy going at Bangor 15 days ago.

3.45: Karshi, third in the Sun Alliance Hurdle last March, ran a cracker behind Balanak over an inadequate trip at Warwick two weeks ago when giving away lumps of weight. That run should have put him spot on. Mandy's Mantino, three times a winner here, goes from strength to strength and may have Serenity Prayer's measure again, but will find it tough conceding 91b to the selection.

RICHARD EVANS

2.40 Addington Boy 3.15 Imperial Vintage 2.05 Large Action .

Going: Good to Firm (Good in Places)

1.00 GEORGE STEVENS HANDICAP CHASE (£6,665: 2m 110yd) (4 rumers) 1 420033 (MONTHS PADDY 22 (D.F.G.S) (Sychance) K. Commighan - Stage 8-11-16
2 14215-0 KRAFET 28 (KD.F.G.S) (I Warrer) P Holits 9-11-9
3 PURP-4 SOUND REVELLE 14 (KD.G.S) (Mrs. 6 Abscessin C Brooks 8-11-5
4 U123-SF LORD DORCET 7 (D.F.R.S) (J. Hogg) J. Charlon 6-10-10 BETTING: 7-4 Kiloned, 9-4 Lond Dorrer, 3-1 Densing Paddy, 9-2 Sound Reveils 1995; MEETING ABANDONED — PROST

1.35 BRISTOL MOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £9,960: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

E N. 19,90J. SIT 110/01 (9 IUTRIES)

SP211 SOUTHERN NEHTES 7 (D.G.5) (J Peres) N Balley 6-11-4.

080-219 SPACEAGE GOLD 18 (C.F.) (G Date!) J 010 7-11-4.

080-112 TARRS BRIDGE 18 (B.G.) (Tuesday Syndicate) C Mass 3-17-4.

04-6 FM A CHPPY 15 (R Lavella is Batiling 6-11-0.

04 SPACETTS CREST 8 (G Husbur 8 Dates 6-11-0.

6-1 MOT FOR TURNING 24 (S) (C Engel 0 Shehmod 5-11-0.

F-0112 OUSER'S AWARD 27 (D.F.6 (R Prize) R Buckler 7-11-0.

3442-11 CAROLE'S CRUSADER 22 (D.G.) (Mr C Sicheroth) 0 Gandolio 5-245241 GALATAGOR JAME 12 (F) (B Birman) P Natholis 6-10-9.

SOUTHERN MIGHTS hast Fine Sir 11/41 in 16-tunes acroice hardle at Townester (2m 51, good to mets, BFACEASE GOLD hast TANGS BRUDGE (2th better off) 11 in 4-more navure hardle here (3m 2, good to Tang). TANSS BRUDGE best Fortunes Course 5/4 in 10-mars handless hundle at Statister (2m 6) 110yd. good). KNGSTT'S CREST 5/4 4th of 15 to Dom Bettano in National Hard Pat race at Hereford (2m 14, good to soft). NOT FOR TURNESNG

beat Royal Event head in 16-runner nonce burdle at Kempton (2m. good to soft) OLICEN'S AWARD 3%! (3nd of 7 to Mister Baire in rowces handles, hundle here (3m 2f. good) CAROLE'S CRUSADER

C4

据型显大器

ger meda

2.05 BONUSPARIT BULA HURDLE (Grade #: £22,085: 2m 1f) (8 numers)

| 22/1-1_ LARGE ACTION 18 (CD,6.5) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sharwood 8-11-8 ... |
75P4-51	MLSE 22 (C,9.5) (White Horse Racing) D Esworth 9-11-8 ...
75P4-51	MLSE 22 (C,9.5) (White Horse Racing) D Esworth 9-11-8 ...
75P4-61	MLSE 22 (C,9.5) (White Horse Racing) D Esworth 9-11-8 ...
75P4-61	MLSE 22 (C,9.5) (White Horse Standard Annual May 11-8 ...
74P4-74	MLSE 23 (F,6.5) (A Fragmand) J White 6-11-0 ...
75P4-74	MOORISH 308 (D,5) (A Fragmand) J White 6-11-0 ...
75P4-74	MOORISH 308 (D,5) (A Fragmand) J White 6-11-0 ...
75P4-74	MOORISH 308 (D,5) (A Fragmand) J White 6-11-0 ...
75P4-74	MOORISH 308 (D,5) (A Fragmand) J White 6-11-0 ...
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FORM FOCUS All Intertrol - BOY, faust and 2041 2nd of 21 to Joe Whele in bandicap classe at Armine Challenged Do Liuc in grade it Murphy's Gold Cap Handisap Classe then 2011 4ft 10/ot good to firm! with ANABATIC (3th better off) 161 2011 4th and 888 MATT (2th better off) 161 2011 4th and 888 M

3.15 BOUBLEPRINT HOVICES CHASE (£6,548: 2m 5f) (2 runners)

- 1 21)11F RAPERAL VINTAGES (C.D.F.G) (D Withmar) Miss V Williams 6-11-10 M Williamson 2 0225-31 GENERAL PONGO 15 (6) (Mrs J Pongo) - 11-6 ______ M A Pizquraid 90

BETTING: 4-5 impetial Vistage, Franc General Pongo FORM FOCUS

3.40 LONESONE GLORY HUMBLE (For the Sport of Kings Challenge: £10,163: 2arr 4f) (4 runners)

BETTING: 2-1 Mandys Martino, B-4 Serenty Prayer, 3-1 Karsisl, 7-1 Ashwell Boy. FORM FOCUS MANDYS MANTINO beat SERENTY PRAYER (3th better off) 1/4 in 3-namer hundle have (2m 110yd, Wiscardon (2m, firm), Sprinkty Prayer poat No flot Shot 11/4 in 8-namer kized hundle at Pina Mountaine, USA (2m 3t, firm), ASHWELL BOY beat 1 Scienciant, NARSH 1/4 (mg)

COURSE SPECIALISTS JOCKEYS

HAYDOCK PARK 12.45 Sanmartino 2.15 Rough Quest 2.50 Santa Concerto 1.15 Clay County The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.45 TULLYMURRY TOFF. GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD Resonant number. Six-figure from (F \sim Infl. P \sim pulled up U \sim uncesting fider 8 \sim brought draw. S \sim styped up R \sim referent 0 \sim disposition, house's conson 0 tops shoot and cusing: F if fielt, 8 \sim bibliogray V \sim visor. H \sim house, F \sim field (B \sim bibliogray V \sim visor. H \sim house, F \sim house which horse has non (F \sim 0 mg, good to soft cusing: F if fielt, 8 \sim bibliogray V \sim visor. H \sim house, Orange in the point of the pion any allowance. The Times distance where \sim course and distance \sim Preview Hardicapper's rating. TOTE JACKPOT MEETING 12.45 ST HELENS COLLEGE STUDENTS NOVICES HURDLE 207: 2m) (19 runners) 019-253 SAMAND 29 (D.F) (Nagram Construction Ltd) Mais L. Saddell 4-11-6 ____ S Wymne 80 00- ARTYWORLD 333 (Major M Wabon) M W Easterly 8-11-4 ... Mir M Watson 2 BANNY HELL LAD 824 (A Sanyer) C Mortect 6-71-4 ... Mir M Watson 3 BANNY HELL LAD 824 (A Sanyer) C Mortect 6-71-4 ... D Sadlagher 4 BOLLIN FRANK 32 (Ser Mell Westbook) T Easterly 4-11-4 ... B Harding 76 60- BRUMON 20 (Sir Mell Westbook) T Easterly 4-11-4 ... D J Mozard 57 P CARRO PRINCE 7 (A Colless J J O'Nail 6-11-4 ... A Roccus D Mallett SEY, Supercraft Ind 8 Farm Bulldings Ltd F Joven 4-11-0 ... A Roccus D Mallett SEY, Supercraft Ind 8 Farm Bulldings Ltd F Joven 4-11-0 ... A Roccus D Parter 77 P 222-52 FASSAN 7 (M4NOG Racrot) M Harmond 4-11-0 ... R Garrity 8 440-4 QALEN 36 (FResion A Shround) Mirst Mirowley 5-11-4 ... Mirow 5 6 Callett 7 Calle BETTIMO: 4-5 Sammartino, 5-1 Dasat, 8-1 Ocazogo, 10-1 Samapit, 12-1 Filseum, Titron Wild Days. 14-1 Galles, Lacto Adrea 16-1 Bollon Frank, Star Selection, 20-1 options.







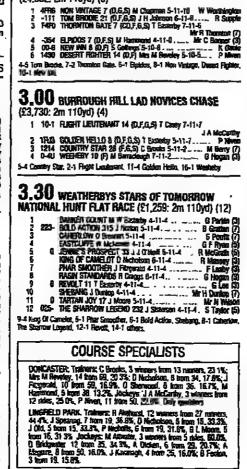




1.50 DIKLER HANDICAP CHASE (£6,835: 3m 2f) (4)

1 P-44 SCOTTON BARRES 21 (CD.G.S.) T Excistly 7-11-10 P Niven
2 1-39 MISTRANESSWIS 22 (CDF.F.S) B Nechol per 10-10-5
MF R Drantes (S)
3 1132 FATHER SKY 32 (B.F.) O Sherwood 5-10-3 JA McCarthy
4 -354 PMS GARRES 12 (F.G.S.) M Hammand 8-10-0 Mr G Bormer (S)

6-4 Scotton Banks, 5-2 Mosthaneswing, 7-2 Pints Gurner, 4-1 February



Blinkered first time

CHELTENHAM: 12.50 Tarrs Bridge HAYDOCK PARK: 12.45 King Rer 3.25 Eurolni, Shadow, LINGFIELD PARK: 1.40 Treasure Again 2.10 Have To Think, 3.20 Seasonal Splendour, WOLVER-HAMPTON: 9.30 Set The Fashion.



	1 8. 1	mmy Whittle Chase at Haydock today after being shake all on Jenny Pitman's gallops yesterday. Rod Farrant to on last season's Sun Alliance Chase winner.	:n in akes
ion print (3) unic	THUNDERER 12.10 Potentate. 12.40 Five To Seven. 1 1,40 PLEASURE SHARED (nap). 2. Strong. 2,45 Strong Paladin, 3.20 Ticker	10 Kersawi. 10 Kersawi. 11-1 PLEASURE SNARED 31 (6.5) P Hobits 8-11-7 Mr RI 2 3-31 BUCKRUSE BUY 14 (6.5) N Tectoro-Davies 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas S Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C Li 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS Mas Snain 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS MAS SNAIN 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS MAS SNAIN 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS MAS SNAIN 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS MAS SNAIN 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS MAS SNAIN 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS MAS SNAIN 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS MAS SNAIN 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LAST R JRG 7 F R JS MAS SNAIN 8-11-4 C LI 3 11UT THE LA	
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	(£3,404. 2m 110yd) (6 rmmers) 1 050. RADASTROF 63F (D.S) R Bidsin 6-12-0	2.10 TJH GROUP CHASE (Handicap: £4,878: 3m) 1 P.SP TERAO 7 (C.5) M Pice 10-11-7 TJH 2 14-2 HAVE TO TRANK 77 (B.F.S) P Nicholis 8-11-5 D Brid 3 29 SHEER ABLITY 644 (CD.6-5) C Minn 10-11-3 JJH 4 12-1 BELLS URE 17 (S.F.S) P Nicholis 8-11-0 STH 5 142- RELLS URE 17 (S.F.S) P Nicholis 8-11-0 C Lin 6 50-P Norman No SAM 38 (6.5) J Colord 8-10-12 L As 7 F-FF SOUNDS STRONG 23 (BF.G) D Micholan 7-10-10 A M 8 50-P LICKY LANE 17 (B.F.S.S Earle 12-10-9 LIN 2-1 SAMPE STRONG - 2-7 Beet LIN	Compily Relation Torontly paid (3) Angusta
	12.40 PEAK HANDICAP CHASE (£3,861: 2m 4f 110yd) (12) 1	2.45 BIFFA RECYCLING NOVICES HURDLE (£2,952: 2m 3f 110yd) (18) 1 69 CHAPILERE 581 T Promotion Joses 6-10-12 M Recommendation of the comment	chards cornes Guest Dictain Bet (7) Leathy Statura Bargary Wester Bargary Wester Bargary Wester Bargary
994	1.10 T.JH GROUP SUMMENT JUNIOR HU (Grade II: £9,735: 2m 110yd) (10) 1 14 KERAWI 42 (D.BF.5) N Teistor-Davies 11-2 2 203 A CHEF TOO FAR 5 IR Rose 10-12 3 2233 BEN BOWNDEN 10 (F) 5 Whostman 30-12 4 BENNES STAR SD (BF) D Microbson 10-12 5 4 CRIGUS STAR SD (BF) D Microbson 10-12 6 UMR WILD 21 R Alerburs 10-12 7 3 PROVINCE 10 C Marm 10-12 8 351 SEMERIS 10 (G) N Hordeson 10-12 9 APARTIMENTS ABROAD 477 K Mekadith 10-7 11-4 Cricus Star, 3-1 Karast 7-2 Semmen, 6-1 MF WHd, 7-1 Province Far, 10-1 Ben Bowden, 12-1 atbus.	C Llenning D D'Sultives M Richards - R Merin - D Bridgwester - B Richards - R Martin - J R Richards - 25 SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 8 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 8 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 8 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-8 M Advesser - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-8 M Advesser - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-6 G Lie - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-6 G Lie - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-6 G Lie - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-6 G Lie - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-6 G Lie - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-6 G Lie - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) J Lenning 6-11-6 G Lie - SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M Pros. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M PROS. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M PROS. 6-12-0 G T SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 9 (V.F.S.) M PROS. 6-12-0 G T	aure)

7 00 4

Rewards put up to catch big names

From David Powell, athletics correspondent, in monte Carlo

WORLD indoor champions will be paid almost as much prize-money as outdoor world champions and there will be substantial cash rewards for the global champions of cross country and race walking from next year

These are the surprise elements in a four-year, \$19 million prize-money package approved by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) council here.

The IAAF announced in March that world championships prize-money would be paid for the first time in 1997, but only now has it settled on

in the past winners of outdoor world titles have re-

ceived cars as payment, but they will get hard cash from

championships will be the world indoor event in Paris in March, from which the win-(about £30,000). Winners at the outdoor world championships in Athens next August will earn \$60,000.

The difference in achievement is not reflected in the difference in pay, but the LAAP is trying to attract the best athletes to its ailing indoor championships.

There was no suggestion in March that cross country or race walking would be included, but, henceforward,

Cullen declared fit

GREAT Britain's prospects of medals at the European cross country championships in Charleroi, Belgium, tomorrow were assisted yesterday when Keith Cullen shook off flu to travel with the squad and a potential individual champion for the host nation was ruled out (David Powell

Fourth last year, Cullen is an essential component of a squad which should win team gold medals.

"I think it is going to be tough for me now." Cullen said, recognising that the effects of the on a runner last

The first IAAF prize-money

for more than a week. The question is to what extent Cullen's standard will drop, but, if he can hold a place in the top ten, gold may not be lost. That would still require one of the other three - Spencer Barden, Darrius Burrows, or Christian Stephenson - to finish in the top 20.

Jon Brown and Andrew Pearson are potential individual medal winners, more so now that Mohamed Mourhit, a Moroccan living in Bel-gium, has failed to gain citizenship in time. Mourhit has won races in Ghent and

the former is to have \$194,000 in prize-money and the latter \$150,000. A world cross country champion will receive \$40,000 and a race walking champion \$20,000. Runners-up at the world

cross country championships will earn \$20,000 and third-placed athletes \$15,000, scaling down to \$5,000 for sixth In all events, there will be

equal pay for women. At the indoor world championships, runners-up will take \$20,000 third-placed athletes \$10,000.

At the outdoor championships, the corresponding fig-ures are \$30,000 and \$20,000. The World Cup, another event that the IAAF is anxious to protect from athlete indifference, will pay \$50,000 to each

Michael Johnson, the Olympic 200 metres and 400 metres champion, has been among those to complain at the LAAF's instransigence over prize-money. While welcoming yesterday the new mea-sures, Johnson said that he still did not intend to compete at the indoor world championships.

There are two outdoor world championships in the four-year period and they will consume approximately half of the total prize-money. There will be some money, too, for the half marathon and road

SWIMMING: EUROPEAN SUCCESSES PROVIDE WELCOME BOOST FOR BRITISH WOMEN'S TEAM



Carl Lewis, above, who has won nine Olympic gold medals since 1984, said yesterday that he will retire at the end of the 1997 season. Although he will not represent the

relay world championships. United States, he is hoping to appear at circuit meetings.

Silver medal encourages Rolph to reach for record

FROM CRAIG LORD IN ROSTOCK, GERMANY

SUSAN ROLPH, of Newcastle, has a world best time in the individual medley in her sights today after winning the silver medal behind Sandra Völker in the 100 metres freestyle at the European short-course championships here yesterday.

freestyle in a personal best, in a session that produced two European records.

The first of those fell to Völker, 22, from Hamburg, in the 100 metres freestyle, her time of 53.04sec just 0.03xec outside the 1993 world record of Le Jingyi, of China, and 0.29sec better than the previous European record of Franziska van Almsick, also from Germany, who is not competing here. The effort came barely half an hour after Völker had swum inside the British women, who have enjoyed - European record of 27,25sec over 50 few successes recently, celebrated furmetres butterfly, but had been beaten their gains as Sarah Collings, 18, won by Johnson Sjoberg, of Sweden, who the bronze medal in the 800 metres swam 27.15sec to Völker's 27.23sec. Both women received DM5,000 (about

Racing in the lane next to Völker in the freestyle, Rolph, 18, a part-time sports science student at Newcastle College, gained on the German over the first three of four lengths but lost badly at the start and each turn. She, sliced almost a second off her best time to record 54.46sec, just 0.07sec shy of Karen Pickering's British record.

Rolph divulged that she was being put under pressure to swim at the British championships in Sheffield next week despite having assured her French sponsor, the Clichy swim club of Paris, that she would compete in France. She signed a four-event deal with Clichy after the Olympic Games that is worth some £5,000 to her between now and the spring.

However, the Amateur Swimming Association of England, which will pay her £1,800 in training expenses over the same period, has told her that that money could be at risk should she miss

Rolph said that she was trying not to dwell on the matter because she wanted to concentrate on attempting the world best time over the 100 metres medley today. She was inside the mark until 75 metres in a race earlier this

Italian stallions unveil whole new ball game

WHERE was I? Oh yes, sex. You will be delighted to learn that a group of male Italian ise artists have formed what they call a national football team, and they intend to play and raise money for charity. They do so under the aegis of their newly-founded governing body, the Italian National Striptease Soccer Federation. They will train twice a week, and play every

formight. They will play in a blue and white, ah ... strip. "No loin-cloths," their captain and federation president, known only as Nicolas, said. "We pre-ierred a classical uniform. After all, we are professional stripartists, not gigolos," Perish las pensata.

Sticks and stones

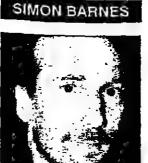
Last Saturday 1 heard the Chelsea fans in full cry: The referee indulges in a practice that, according to traditional belief, will have a deleterious effect upon his eyesight, if it has not done so already, and will also lead, if again it has not already done so, to the degeneration of his mental faculties, such as they are." Or words to that effect. The referee took it in his stride. They are made of less stem stuff in the Whartedale Triangle premier division, in

During the game between Inackley Commercial and Guiseley Victoria last weekend, with the score 2-0 to Guiseley, Paul Farrell, the referee, abandoned the match. The helpful remarks of a single speciator persuaded Farrell to walk off. The person was persuaded to go away and then the referee was persuaded to continue with the match. Guiseley went on to win.

Rich pickings

Which British sports stars did the best in 1996? The magazine, Total Sport, lists their own reckoning on the subject. Here is their top ten: 10, Stephen Hendry £21 million; 9, Paul Gascoigne E2.2 mil-lion; equal 7, Colin Mont-gomerie, Colin McRae E2.5 million; 6, Eddie Irvine £2.8 million; 5, Naseem Hamed £4 million: 4, Lennox Lewis E4.5 million; 3, Frank Bruno £5.5 million; 2, Damon Hill E7 million; 1, Nick Faldo £8 million.

One woman makes the top



On Saturday

teenth with £1.3 million. Oh, and McRae is a rally driver. I thought you might need to

Flicking yarns

Great causes excite great passions and I am delighted to announce that Subbuteo has, at last, got the book it deserves. This is Fifty Years of Flicking Football, by Richard Payne, published by Yore Publications, at £7.25. It covers all forms of table-top football, though the lion's share, naturally, goes to Subbuteo (which, being not so much a pastime as a hobby, was named by its birderinventor, Peter Adolph, after the hobby falcon, scientific name Falco subbuteo).

Did you know that there are Subbuteo versions of speed way, cricket, hockey and even angling? Perhaps the last one comes complete with dead plastic cormorants. Anyway, the book, like the author's 1963 Mexico team (from the Continental Display set, price

27s 6d) is a treasure.

Setting it straight

You may recall that the volleyball event at the Atlanta Olympics was taken away from Cobb County, because that redneck enclave had declared that homosexuality was against community stan-dards, Naturally, everyone as-sumed that the Atlanta organising committee (ACOG) was making a stand against intolerace, but Dick Yarborough, the gloriously inept ACOG publicity man, has now explained all to the Atlanta Constitution. The reason, he said, was not to support gay rights, but to keep gays away from the Games. The ACOG was against "giving gay advocates the highest profile platform with which to rally their troops worldwide. We moved the event, keeping the Games and the gays out of Cobb". Yee-hah, more redneck than thou, eh?

Author, author

I think we should have a quiz this week to celebrate the first catalogue of Bodyline Books, a cricketing book service filled with antique gold and iron pyrites. They can be reached at 150a Harbour Street. London, SW6 6PH. Name the author of the following titles, all available from Bodyline: 1. A Game Enjoyed; 2, Cricket Is My Life; 3, The King of Games; 4, Cricket — How to Succeed; 5, A La Recherche du Cricket Perdu.

It could be you

And the entries are beginning to pile up for the Magic Numbers competition this year. I already have some real belters, to be revealed around Christmas time. As ever, a bottle of Nicolas Feuillante champagne as a reward to the senders. The favourite number at this early stage is four, which goes to Steve Redgrave, naturally. One cheery soul has added an additional magic number for Redgrave - five, I half-suspect this is Steve, himself, under a nseudonym. Anyway, more magic numbers are solicited.

Answers to books quiz: I, PBH May. 2, Len Hutton. 3, Frank Wolley. 4. Douglas Jardine. 5. Me — and at six auid I reckon it's an absolute steal. It must be one of those rare copies. An unsigned one.

£2,000) for their records.

12.45 (2m 1) 110yd ch) 1, PLIMSY TRUTH (Mr M Hanis, 9-1), 2, Wee Windy (P Fice, 4-7 tay); 3, Lord Of The West (A Meguire, 15-8), 3 (2m) 33, 111, M Weston, Tota; 25, 70, DF:

C3 10. C39 E13 ISE ATBON (G Hogan, 8-4 Inv. Private Hendisepper's top rating); 2. Buyers Dresm (G Caris), 92; 3. Linder's Lotto (Guy Livels, 9-2) ALSO RAN 9-2 Yeomen Warrior (ur), 20 Helhem Tern (ur), 5 na. 7. des. R Budset at Bridgont. Tosts £190, £130, £130, £7-50, £7-50, £7-518. 1.55 (2m 1) Indies I, CHALYO (CSF: 26 18.
1av): 2. Klippanoter (R. Durwoody, 9-1): 3.
Sovereigns Parade (M. A. Frzgereld, 11-2.
ALSO RAN 2 Forestal (Nn). 4 ran 121, 211,
clast J Old at Woodphor, Tale, 27,90, DF: C4.50, CSF: C5.75

30 (3m 11 110yd ch) 1, YORKSHIRE GALE 1 Williamson, 11-10): 2, Glernot (R unwoody, 4-5 tay). 2 ran. NR Reinbolw asile, 10t J Gillord, Take: £1,80.

233 60 CSF. £44.53.

3.40 (2m 110/4) 1, ELBURG (M A Fritgerick 7-2) 2, Rumaway Pete (R Durwoody, 12-1), 3, Olympian (M Williamson, 8-1) 4.50 RAN 16-5 fev Lochnegran (url. 15-2 Glengarm Gin (4/h), 8 Belansk (h), 4 Ezzaden, 18 Ulun (5/h), 20 Swing Quartel, 33 Mister Biske (6/h), 10 ran, 13(L, 7), 2 (2-1), 1/kl 1 George of Stoud, Totar (5/h), 20 CSF, 20 CSC 230, £3.00 DF; £27.10, 7/for ESJ, 80, CSF 24 101, Totast £281.24, Jackpot £7, 1069.20.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Newcastle (first race, 12.40), Newton Abbot (12.50); Warwick (12.30). Folkestone (12.30), (12.20), Southwell TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY: Bangor (12.30), Calterick (12.50), Exeter (12.40). THURSDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 1.30), Catterick (12.20), Towcester

FRIDAY: Lingfield Park (AW. 12.45). Hereford, (1.20), Hexham (12.30), Uttoxeter (1.10). SATURDAY: Ascot (BBC, 12.35), Haydock Park (12.15), Lingfield Park (12.30), Uttoxeter (12.25).

Flat meetings in bold

Doncaster

Going: good to firm, good in places
12.05 (2m 4) hole) 1, (AM AT THE TOP (W
Fry, 6-4); 2, hierbert Lodge (C O'Dwyer,
11-10 lay); 3, Tweedswood (R Sundle,
10-1), ALSO RAN 8 Henrys Port (I, 16
Oyrese Avenue (4th, 33 Gutsetoge (8th),
Mesp: (8th), 30 Dougal (pu), Toshibe
House, 9 mn. 31, 131, 131, 141, 181, J Norton
at Sameley Tote; 92.60; 21.10, 21.50,
21.40 DF 21.50, Tric: 25.00; 21.10, 21.50,
21.40 DF 21.50, Tric: 25.01; 2, Laughing
Buccanew (B McNell, 4-1 | I-lay); 3,
Oeldoury (M Richards, 8-1) ALSO RAN:
4-1 (I-lay Muclark, Song For Jess (4th), 7Bold Top (9th), 8 Shenoora, 12 Despoil
Conqueror (pu), 16 Arch Anger (8th), 25
Bellylossongel (pu), 8-Begger's Opera (pu)
11 ran, Nic, nic, 141, 31, 481, J Wharlon et
Meton Morehay, Totes: 21.30, 23.00; 23.00,
22.30, 22.10, DF 231.80, Tric: 2134.80,
CSF-240.89
1,10 (3m oh) 1, BERIUDE NOT TO (4) Going: good to firm, good in place

GOING: STANDARD

2.85 (2m 110yd orth 1, ZEREDAR CC O'Dwyer, 13-8 tay); 2, Newhall Prince (T Eley, 8-1); 3, Esstern Megic (F Farrard 15-8); 3 mr. 2, 101. K Belley, 70d; 21.60. DF: 25.00 CSF: 25.89 Fire Hervest (3-1)

Lingfield Park

DRAW NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 (5) 1. Miljan (M. Roberta, 8-1): 2. Napier Star (11-4); 3. Featherstone Land (7-1). Kaler 8-4 law 10 rain. 41, th. hd. Hd. Napier 8-50: 10 rain. 41, th. hd. Hd. 15-50: 22.30, 21.50, 22.50. Of £16.70 That: £26.40, CSF; £29.22 Tricost £155.46.

MOJNESTEMPION

THUNDERER 7.00 Superbelle. 7.30 Arapi. 8.00 Theatre Magic. 8.30 Explosive Power. 9.00 Petoskin. 9.30 Mad Militant.

7.00 MEASURE FOR MEASURE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,892: 1m 100yd) (13 runners) 50 BANHETH 86 S WRIghts 9-0 ...
0 BENTHOSE 80 D Maris 9-0 ...
1200 EFFENVESCENCE 25 R Homeo
00 ETERNAL HOST 14 R Howesh
1344 JACK THE LAD 99 J Hoterfor SNOW EASIE 7 R Hannon 8-9.... SUPERBELLE 19 (BF) M Javas 8-8....

i Ellarvetpance, 7-2 Superbeile, 5-1 dack The Lad, 6-1 Rolley Spirosey, 8-1 1815, 10-1 Double Crest, 12-1 Enlisted, 14-1 others. 7.30 winter's tale conditions stakes (2-Y-0: £2,788: 7f) (6)

8.00 AS YOU LIKE IT HANDICAP (£2,671. 61) (13)

8.30 BENTLEY JEHNISON HANDICAP

O . JU BENTLEY JEHNISON HANDICAP
(22,853: 1m 17 Syd) (13)

1 5051 CEDEZ LE PASSAGE 19 (8,CD,6) h. C-Brown 5-10-0 D O'Neil 1
2 4103 SOUTH SASTERN FRED 25 (CD,6) fl Collografige 5-94 J. Culting 6
3 1120 HERN FREBMUM 42 (CD,6) fl Fahry 8-9-9 — A Cultings 6
4 2032 BENTICO 9 (VCD,F.6) his I Macasiey 7-9-5 — T Legage (3) 16
5 4224 LDR/VORMILIONS 234 (F.5) R Traiter 4-9-4 — Mrightan 7
3220 RACHIN BEEF 23 (6.5) J Pearce 5-9-4 — M Wightan 7
3220 RACHIN BREHON, 67 (BF-1,6) B Margar 5-9-3 — S Sanding 11
8 050 PODD MUSIC 234 (F.5) M Margher 5-9-1 — I Hooten (5) 3
10 6005 MORITH BEEF 23 (6.5) (CD, 6) Basery 5-9-1 — I Feoton (5) 3
10 6005 MORITH BEEF 26 (F.6) (CARGINET 5-9-1 — I Feoton (5) 3
11 1010 SHAMIN 7 (CD, 6.5) D Heyda Joses 6-8-11 — S Withouth 12 (DOD) (DE-LADY 48 (F) W G M Tamer 4-9-11 — S Withouth 12 (DOD) (DE-LADY 48 (F) W G M Tamer 4-9-11 — S Withouth 12 (DOD) (DE-LADY 48 (F) W G M Tamer 4-9-11 — S Withouth 12 (DOD) (DE-LADY 48 (F) W G M Tamer 4-9-11 — S Withouth 12 (DOD) (DE-LADY 48 (F) W G M Tamer 4-9-11 — S Withouth 12 (DOD) (DE-LADY 48 (F) W G M Tamer 4-9-11 — D Winght 13 (State 15 (Stat

9.00 PLYVINE CATERING SELLING STAKES (£2,085: 1m 6f 166yd) (9)

7-4 Petoskin, 7-2 Foxzer, 9-2 Swiella, Dancar, 5-1 Rose Oli Gieno, 8-1 Skill Hon 10-1 Zellha. 16-1 Mapengo, 20-1 others

9.30 COMEDY OF ERRORS HANDICAP

7-2 Martid, 9-2 Set The Fashion, 5-1 Hdl Farm Dancer, 7-1 Mar Milliont, 8-1 Obeios, 10-1 in The Money, Charlie Bighton, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANCESS W Javis, S winners Iron 17 names, 29 4%, M Johnston, 43 from 178, 24 2%; G Bowey, 3 from 13, 23 1%; M Prescell, 18 from 80, 22 7%, C Thornton, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: Date O'Naill, 4 winners from 23 rights, 17.4%; G Daffield, 20 from 139, 14,4%; T Sprake, 12 from 37, 12 4%; S Sanders, 31 from 258, 12 0%; S Winterrorin, 12 from 156, 11,4%.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION ----- THE SETIMES

WIN A SHOPPING TRIP TO NEW YORK

Tinishing our Twelve T Days of Christmas competition with a flourish, The Times brings you the chance to win, not a partridge in a pear tree, but an exciting shopping trip to New York, with a stopover first in London. You will also be given £500 to spend.

The trip will begin on Thursday January 16, 1997, when the winner and a partner will stay at the Conrad International

London in a suite with a view over Chelsea Harbour. After an English breakfast you will. be chauffeured to Heathrow to catch an American Airlines flight to JFK New York, travelling in the luxury of business class.

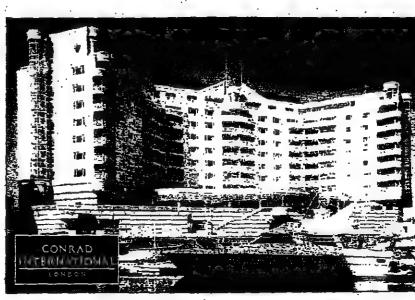
On arrival a limousine will whisk our winners to the luxurious Millenium Hilton hotel in Manhattan, which towers above the hustle and bustle of Wall Street and downtown

HOW TO ENTER

Call 0891 300 361 with your answer to the following question:

A character from which book said: "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents."

a) Little Women b) A Christmas Carol . ? Tom Sawyer



Manhattan, for a three-night stay in a Millenium room. A full American breakfast will be provided each day. The Millenium Hilton boasts a 40-foot indoor swimming pool overlooking the beautiful St Paul's Church, a fitness centre and a choice of excellent restaurants.

After the shopping spree our winners will be taken by limousine to the airport for their return American Airlines flight to Heathrow.



Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply. Calls cost (per minute) 45p cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

CHANGING TIMES

Gough lifts England with display of promise

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

four): England XI beat Matabeleland by 115 runs

ENGLAND duly completed their defeat of Matabeleland at the Athletic Club here yesterday and, in the final analysis, it was a comfortable enough victory. When the last wicket went down they had 115 runs and II.I overs to spare, but that disguises the fact that, for half the day, they searched in vain for a wicket and looked an unconvincing outlit.

It is safe to say that without Darren Gough they would not have won. On a flat pitch that offered less and less as the game went on, he bowled magnificently, extracting pace and bounce from this lifeless turf and showing an impres-sive command of his famed yorker to secure match figures of 11 for 139, the best of his career. Yesterday he claimed five for 75 as Matabeleland were dismissed for 261.

Gough's form has swiftly become the most exciting aspect of this tour, because, if he can sustain it, he could create. with Dominic Cork, who joins the New Zealand leg of the tour next month, an incisive new-ball partnership that may

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND XI: First Invenge 334 (N V Knight 114, J P Crawley 63), Second Invengs, 280 for 6 dec (G P Thorpe 66, M A Atherion 56). MATABELELAND: First innings 188 (W R James 62; D Gough 5 for 64)

Second Immor J Whiteli & Cacidek b Gough H Dekter flow b Croit Renched low b Gough M Flanchod low b Gough

H Street b Caddrick

TW Flannes c Crawley b Crott

M D Abrune low b Gough

"J A Renne not out

D Vagimmen a Suevent b Croth

A R Whitsall b Gough

H K Olonga b Gough

M Mbangea c Crawley b Crott

Extrac (b 3, nb 3)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-20, 3-176, BCMLNG: Gough 24-6-75-5, Caddick 20-7-43-1; Turnal 20-6-52-0; Iran 2-2-0-7-0; Thorps 2-4-1-6-0; Croft 23-5-7-65-4

Umpires: P. Tiffin and J Coventry.

BULAWAYO (final day of cause Australia serious problems next summer.

it was understandable. therefore, that David Lloyd, the England coach, was thrilled yesterday at his progress here. Gough has overcome his early problem with blistered feet, his confidence - which with him is a key element to his game — is sky high and he is bowling long spells at a good pace.

Yesterday he indulged in a spot of gamekeeping and clearly enjoyed every minute of it. With a couple of exceptions, he was able to force everyone onto the back foot and then snare some of them with yorkers or balls of full length. Guy Whittall, his first victim, was well held by Caddick at third man but Ranchod, his second, collected his pair by being leg-before to a yorker and, much later in the day, Abrams and Andrew Whittall fell to similar balls.

Olonga, his last scalp, was separated from his off stump in more ways than one, having shown no inclination to get into line. "Darren bowled aggressively," Lloyd said. "He hit players and the stumps."

The only danger, come the first Test match next Wednesday, is that Gough and England may deceive themselves into thinking that embarking on a "bouncer war" is the way to win the series. There are several players not on view in Bulawayo who will be happy to let England waste their time on such a fruitless exercise, as were Mark Dekker and Heath Streak yesterday during their three-hour parmership for the third wicket, which yielded 156

In many ways this was the most instructive part of the day. Dekker averages 17 from 13 Test matches, but he is not his chances of making runs wager with a friend in a bar on

of The TLS for just £19.75

Now you can give a year



Dekker scrambles back to see the ball in the hands of Hussain during his innings of 104 yesterday

Wednesday evening that he would score a century yesterday and the friend was obliged to keep his part of the bargain by streaking across the pitch when he reached his landmark shortly before tea.

Streak batted at No 9 for Hampshire two seasons ago but was promoted here to No 4 and stroked the ball around as though to the manner born for 67 and belied ports of his lack of fitness.

While all this was going on. England wilted in the sun. Caddick again struggled to find his rhythm and is rapidly exhausting Lloyd's patience. Irani pulled out of the attack in his third over with back pain and Tufnell, though engaging Dekker in an interest-ing duel, came out of it the

At least once the stand was broken - Streak waving a tired bat at Caddick and being bowled - Croft moved in to help Gough in the mopping-up operation and finished with four wickets. With the first one-day international against Zimbabwe coming up win for England, which against England. He struck a should put them in excellent

England seek to settle score

FROM SIMON WILDE

IF ZIMBABWE have every reason to be buoyed up for the Test matches later this month - England having opposed their election to full nbership of the International Cricket Council in 1992 England have their own score to settle in the first of three one-day internationals at Queen's Club tomorrow.

As if England needed any reminding, the promotional material here is trumpeting the unexpected outcome of their previous meetings with Zimbabwe, the scoreline "2-1" being emblazoned across the bill posters advertising their tour dates

Nor were those encounters, all of them in Australia. without significance. The nine-run defeat at Albury in 1992 proved the turning point of England's World Cup campaign, which hitherto had been a virtually unbroken run mentum, culminating in de-feat in the final by Pakistan.

Two years later Zimbabwe's victory in Sydney — though avenged three weeks later in Brisbane — cost England a place in the finals of the World Series Cup, an embarrassing interlude on an embarrassing tour of Australia. It was largely because of a fundamental mistake, Eng-land allowing their run chase to be stifled on a slow, low

England must beware of committing similar basic errors here because they are less experienced at playing one-day internationals than any other leading cricketing na-tion — including Zimbabwe. Stewart has played 79 limited overs games for England, Atherton 43, Thorpe 30 and Gough 27, but they are likely to be joined tomorrow by seven others with 21 appearances between them. Crawley's most recent match was

almost 400 one-day caps, which probably explains why they will undoubtedly hold the advantage in outfielding and will continue their policy of employing a pinch-hitter, a role filled recently by Craig Evans and Paul Strang both playing tomorrow — but time handed to Andy

Nevertheless, if England do not win tomorrow; or at Harare Sports Club on January I and 3, it will be a surprise because Zimbabwe's record in the limited overs game is -- for all their practice

England are likely to leave out Russell, Tufnell and Irani from their 14. It was intended that Irani should feature, but he has developed a pain in his lower back and will need to pass a fitness test.

PROBABLE TEAMS: England: M A Alveston Izapiliri). N V IONEN, A J Simoni, N Museain, G P Thorpe, J P Canader, R D B Crott Cough, A R Catolick, A D Musely, C E W

IN BRIEF

for surgery potential Blue boat

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BRISHAND

concludes

Hollioake

poised

as tour

ADAM HOLLIOAKE'S success in leading the England A party in Australia was put into sharper perspective as the tour ended yesterday. Hollicake. the Surrey all-rounder, whose performances will have given him every chance of full recognition in the Ashes series next summer, revealed that he is poised for an operation on his left ankle.

"I'm going back in a few days to see the physic at Surrey with the intention of getting something done because it's been three seasons now where I have been running in with a bad foot and it's time I got it seen to," he said.

As the last match of the tour. against Queensland, petered out into a predictable draw, Hollicake was not the only England A player showing signs of wear and tear. Dean Headley, the fast bowler, suffered a recurrence of the hip problem that plagued him last season, and Mark Ealham, another all-rounder, sustained a fractured right index finger. Both will be seeking the advice of specialists on their return.

Resuming yesterday on 195 for five, Queensland reached 298, Craig White finishing with a career-best six for 66. before England reached 106 for four at the close.

BUCHAND A: First innings 230 (M Buchar 72; B N Creavey 6 for 70). M A Butcher it wides to Presenting
M P Vaugher o Maher b Muller

A McGrath c and b Muller

J E R Galler not out

trae (0 1, 60 4, nb 2) Total (4 whits) 108
FALL OF WICKETS 1-13, 2-59, 3-68, 4-62.
BCWLING: Multier 9-3-29-2, Crosses 5-16-2, 3-68, 4-62.
Jackson 6-2-6-0; Mott 4-18-0; Seccombe

CUEBASEANC: First Innin
T J Bassby Ibw to Esthern
J P Mather c Hegg b White
S G Law a Chapple b Holloate
M P Motte Hegg b White
J L Cassell c Hegg b White
J L Cassell c Hegg b White
S A Prestwidge not out
B N Creeyey c Holloate b White
P W Jackson by b McGintain
S A Mutter b White

Cambridge . pencil in

Forgone

CAMBRIDGE, the winners of the women's Boat Race for the past five years, revealed their potential Blue boat in a race against their reserves and lightweights at Henley yesterday (Mike Rosewell

Pushing into a strong headwind and choppy water. the provisional Blues duly won with some leeway, looking controlled and sound. The crew included only one old Blue, Sarah Winckless, the president this year and al-ready holder of 13 Blues for a variety of sports.

Oxford's women's president this year is Abbie Chapman, who coxed the men in 1995.

Farrell's mission

Rugby league: Andrew Far-rell, the Wigan captain who led Great Britain's unsuccessful trip to New Zealand, will be looking for revenge in the World Nines in Australia. Farrell is joined by Denis Betts and Barrie-Jon Mather. the former Wigan players, for the 12-nation tournament which includes New Zealand, in North Queensland from January 31 to February 2.

January 31 to February Z.
SOLAD: A Farrell (Wigoan Warrion, caprain), S Soruce (Bractord Bulls), S Naylor
Salford Reds), M Crompton (Oktarn
Bensa), J Bentiley (Italia, Blue Sox), T
Smith (Castelord Tigers), K Senior (Sheli
Belta (Ruckland Warrors), K Cunningham
(St Helens), P Scutthorpe (Warrington
Worken), A Modrey (Leeds Prinos), S
Holgale, (Workington Town), T. Tollett
(London Broncos)

Sweet success

Hockey: A crowd of 20,000 watched Pakistan defeat India 3-2 in Madras yesterday to secure a place in the final of the Champions Trophy tournament against Holland tomorrorw. Pakistan wiped out the memory of a crushing 5-2 defeat by India at the same venue in December 1995 in the South Asia Federation final.

Cup wrangle

Rugby union: Newbury are seeking legal advice after the Rugby Football Union ordered them to play their Pilkington Cup tie with uled for today - on Tuesday. At least five players are ill and Terry Burwell, the director of rugby, is furious at having to name a second-string side for a game that will earn the winners a meeting with

Blunt edge

Cycling: Stuart Blunt goes into the third round of the four-series National Trophy cyclo-cross competition at Leicester tomorrow wearing the yellow jersey of overall leader, but knowing that he faces a hard fight to retain it. Only four points separate the three leading riders.

lash mus

Slalom off

Skiing: Heavy snow forced World Cup organisers to call off a women's giant slalom

West Indies slump continues

WEST INDIES suffered their seventh successive defeat when Australia A beat them by six wickets in Melbourne yesterday. Australia A. for whom Andrew Symonds was twelfth man, had more than five overs to spare when they overhauled the West Indies total of 217 for eight off 50 overs. Ian Harvey hit Kenny Benjamin for six to long-on to

finish the match. Harvey walked off 67 not out with Darren Lehmann on 63, the pair toying with some limp bowling during a part-nership of 132 runs for the fifth

Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

one of the few successes so far for West Indies, was their top scorer with 72, Brian Lara being dismissed for 33.

Symonds, who has sacrificed his Gloucestershire registration in order to have the chance to play for Australia, is expected to be given his first. representative game in the return match on December 28.

Pakistan, who will compete with Australia and West Indies in the World Series tournament, were beaten by 13 runs by the Australian Cricket Academy in their opening match and are already talking of replacements for sick and injured players.

the tour at the last moment because of an ankle injury and Wasim Akram, the captain, and Moin Khan, the firstchoice wicketkeeper missed the match yesterday because of illness. Wagar Younis was rested before the World Series meeting with Australia tomor-Sri Lanka's coach, in succes-

Salim Malik withdrew from

sion to Dav Whatmore, who is joining Lancashire, will be Bruce Yardley, another Australian, an off spinner who took 126 wickets in his 33 Tests. Sri Lanka had earlier approached Allan Lamb, the former England batsman.

race in Val d'Isère yesterday.

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FOR THE RESORD AS A SE 7-UP TROPHY: Laopards 104 Crystal

7-UP TROPHY: Linopards 104 Crystal Palace 94
EUROLEAGUE Pentonics (Gr. 79 Stefanel Main 86, Meccabir Tel Awv (sr.) 71
Uberspor (Tur) 85; Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 97 Dyntamo Mescow 64; Villeurbarne (Fr) 97 Bancelona 90 (Gr); Kindet Bologne 86
Pau Orthez (Fr) 74; Seville 68 Eles Pitsen (Tur) 70; Estudiantes (So) 87 Olympadkos (Gr.) 78; Charleror (Bel) 69 Alos Berlin 79; NATICINAL ASSOCIATION (NBA); New York 90 Golden Sate 79; Houston 115
Deboir 96; Malwaukse 100 Seattle 97; Phoene 95; Utah 87; Pordand 99 Vancouver 78; LA Cippers 97 San Antonio 94; Secramento 93 Dalles 86 ICE HOCKEY

CRICKET

TOUR MATCHES: Melbourne (one day):
West Indians 217-8 (S Chenderpeul 72),
Australia A 218-4 (I J Harvey 67 not out, D S
Lehmann 83 not out), Australia A with by six
workers. Adelaide (one day): Australian
Academy 248-5 (M Dighton 62): Paistainis
235 (Zahoor Elain 81, Seech Anwar 56)
Academy win by 13 runs
SUPERSPORT SERES: Durban (second
day of fatur), Bolund 133 and 68-2; Nazal
199 (D M Benkenstein 50; H S Williams
6-57, D J Millins 4-64 (Kimbardey (first day
of four), Free State 294-7 (t, J Williamson 15,
C F Craven 63 not out, B Dippensar 50) v
Gequaland West Cape Town (first day
of tout), Border 210 (M Boucher 71); Western
Province 87-6 (M Milliamson Johannaburg (first day of four): Transissal 302-8 (D R
Lang 128, A J Hall 60) v Eastern Province

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Buston 1 Grantham Town 1 HASSIAN TROPHY: Finite Create 1 Couch Republic 1 (Create Vent 4-1 on pens) (in Casablance). COLE

FOOTBALL

SAILING

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCH: Group A: Holland 2 Great Britain 8 (at A: Francia III.
Hearenveet E. H. A. E. L. H. L.: Boston 4 New
Jersey 7, Detroit 6 Chicago 2 Philadelphia
3 Heritord 2, Tampa Bay 2 Edmonton 2
(01): Los Angeles 1 Calgary 5.

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Group B: Philips Windows Chichester 3 Storna Strings Swansaa 2; Devon and Exister 3 Brosbourne 2. Under-21 International match Scotland Under-21: Tries: A Butloch 2, But 2, Netson Cores: Rose 5, Pene: Rose 2 Italy Under-21: Tries: Mastrotomomics, Pinna, Con: Ribola, Pen: Ribola.

CLUB MATCHES: Edinfungh Academicels 14 Henot's FP 11; Welsonians 21 Stewart's Metwile FP 42. RFU INTERMEDIATE CUP: Fourth round; North: Aspull 12 Sedgley Park 18 **POWERBOATING**

ABU DHABL World Fermula One champ-lonship: Final standings: 1. G Ceppelini (ft) 140ps; 2. P Leppelin (Ft) 76: 3 equal, J Jones (GB) and M Wenre (Ge) 86; 5 equal, M Roggiero (ft) and H Bakhit (UAE) 55 ROWING

RUGBY UNION

41 Italy

CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S PROVISIONAL SOAT RACE CREAK Bons, E Grabham (Queen Bizabeth HS and St John's); 2, K Astley (Shadhort GS and Ousens); 3, G Wats (6k Francs Coll and St John's); 4, E Williamson (Helston and Homeron); 5, B Windinson (Helston and Homeron); 5, L Hanson (Cavendish Road HS, Australia and Jeoue); 7, 5 Windidess (Millineid and Fitzonillam), Stroka, F Zhro (Wycombe Abbey and Magdelene); Cox, D Rogers (University Cotiege Sch and Emmanue).
CAMBRIDGE MEN'S TRIAL EIGHTS: Guilt: Bow, A Gray (Brantwood Coll Sch and Guzen's), 2, M Clarke (Abrigdon and Petahouso), 3, S Korbel (AS Vierna and Guzen's), 2, M Clarke (Abrigdon and Petahouso), 3, S Korbel (AS Vierna and Guzen's), 4, J Bull (FISS Newcastle and Emmanuel); 5, A Story (Heniely Coll and St Edmund's); 6, A Wassen (Cavendish and Schrey Susseo); 7,

C Brun (Elon and Robinson): Stroke, R Pim (Methodist Coll, Bellast and Downing); Cox, S Elie (Abbots Bromley and Homerton), Innocence: Bow, R Belley (Stroud and Pelerhouse); 2, J Fausat (Hampton and Homeston); 3, P Cunningham (British Schof Brussels and Gonelle and Calus); 4, T Brun (Bon and Jesus), 5, "E Ayer (Philips, Acad, Harvard and St Edmund's); 6, "I Welliese (Ring Edward VI, Southampton and Jesus); 7, D Methop (Bon and Thinty); Stroke, R Crombie (McGill University and Peterhouse), Cox, "K Whyman (King's, Chester and Peterhouse)." danotes Blue

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE Distance to Wallington (positions as at 13,596MT yesterday): 1. Save The Children 3,179 rules; 2. Group 4 3,182; 3. Global Tearmonk 3,197; 4. Concent 3,225; 5. Motorcia 3,232; 6. Toshiba Wave Warnfor 3,239; 7. Pause To Remember 3,311; 8. Commiscial Union 3,316; 9. Nuclear Electric 3,316; 10, 300m 3,366; 11, Ocean Rower 3,366; 12. Health Insured II 3,401; 13, Time & Tide 3,416; 14, Courteadds international 3,454.

SQUASH

SWIMMING

ROSTOCIC European sprint and short-course championships: Finals: Ment: 50 metres breassbroker, 1, P Isaksson (Swe) 27.76sac; 2, J Kuppe (Ges) 27.7, 3, D Malek (C2) 27.84; 4, M Hessing (Ger) 27.85; 5, R Delder (Holl) 28 17; 6, P Schm-olinger (Austrie) 28.18, 50 metres back-stroker, 1, M Slembade (Pol) 25.05sac; 2, T Karlo (Cro) 25.14; 3, S Theloke (Ger) 25.15; 4, J Letzin (Ger) 25.23; 5, D Lomberg (Swe) 25.56; 6, M Zeraveta (Cro) 25.73, 100

metres freestyle: 1, I. Dirwal (Ger)
48.90sec, 2, N Butscu (Rom) 49.49; 3, N
ken (Rom) 49.56, 4, A Bascu (N Study)
50.11 -100 metres medfey; 1, M Woude
(Ger) 55.45; 4, M Milosevic (Cro) 55.90, 5, P
Manhou (Storeral) 56.10, 6, S Handley (GB)
57.11, 200 metres butlently; 1, C Bremer
(Ges) 1min 57.04sec; 2, T Reppreth (Ger)
157.30; 3 equal, D Mared (Fr) and A Ander
mati (Switz) 159.23; 5, V Hanski (Fr)
159.73; 6, K Golon (Po) 2:02.21 400
metres treestyle: 1, E Brembits (N 3min
45.52sec; 2, B Pohl (Ger) 3:48.10; 3, D
Maganas (Gr) 3:48.29; 4, T Lorfrink (Ger)
3:48.30; 6, A Septemov (Fluss) 3:51.48; 6, I
Snitico (Ukr) 3:51.93; Womert 50 metres
butlently; 1, J Sjoberg (Swe) 27.15sec
(Europeen record), 2, S Volker (Ger) 27.23;
3, M Parssinen (Fin) 27.69; 4, M Morawova
(Stovelds) 27.73; 5, W sen Holwegen (Hot)
27.74; 6, J Drader (Austria) 27.95; 100
metres breestetrolas: 1, T Miler (Nor) Inin
07.9 Issec; 2, V Lacrinka (Austria) 1:08.18; 3,
A Perzak (Pol) 1:08.35; 4, 3 Bondamento
(Ukr) 1:08.51; 5, H Jaither (Swe) 1:09.64; 6,
M Bearrs (Hol) 1:10.22; 100 metres treestyles: 1, Viblen (SB) 54.45; 3, M Moravoovd (Stovalds) 54.95; 4, V Johansen (Nor)
55.11; 5, K Metssar (Ger) 55.56; 6,
Disconescu (Florn) 56.47; 200 metres
beckelotoker: 1, K Peronicova (Cr) 2min
08.15sec; 2, A Buschschufte (Ger) 209.54;
3, A Keizer (Stovens) 2:12.20; 4, S Herbst
(Ger) 2:13.72; 4, L Becerra (Sp) 4:42.57; 5, M
Nemec (Austria) 4:46.82; 6, Y Geny (Bol)
4.88, 800 metres freestyle: 1, C Geurts
(Holl) 8 min 34 69sec; 2, P Floeranom (Switz)
(Ger) 2:13.72; 400 metres predley;
1, Herbst 4 min 39.29sec; 2, B Corde Caslaru (Rom) 4:41.76; 3, P Christove (Cr)
4:42.07; 4, L Becerra (Sp) 4:42.57; 5, M
Nemec (Austria) 4:46.82; 6, Y Geny (Bol)
4:88, 800 metres freestyle: 1, C Geurts
(Holl) 8 min 34 69sec; 2, P Floeranom (Switz)
(Ger) 2:13.72; 5, J Desirins (GB) 2:13.42; 6;
9 Parena (Sp) 2:13.72; 400 metres predley;
1, Herbst 4 min 39.29sec; 2, B Corde Caslaru (Rom) 4:41.76; 3, P Christove (Cr)
4:42.07; 4, L Becerra (Sp) 4:42.57; 5, M
Nemec (Austria) 4:46





Forgotten £5 million man revels in return to centre forward's stage

Sutton strikes back for Blackburn

CHRIS SUTTON

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL



By David Maddock

hris Sutton pauses to consider an answer, deliberate, these ways, the silence is scratchy old movie, filled by a scratchy old movie, throning away without an aulience on a television in the corner. It is Alastair Sim as Scrooge, giving the performance of his life in Dickens's tale of atonement. Somehow, it is seems singularly appropriate.

Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers forward, has his own Christmas story to tell this

year. He is a man with a past and very much a man with a future. Perhaps it is a little too dramatic to suggest that he has reformed after being haunted by ghosts from his history, but he does seem to be

People had forgotten about Sutton. After securing a championship medal in his first season at Ewood Park, he spent nearly a whole year out the demons of injury and exile.

Now he is back, a better, wiser man for the time he spent idle. He has, he states bluntly,

grown up. The process was aided by his enforced period of aloed by his duty in truth, it was natural, almost a rite of passage. As a teenager, he was thrust towards stardom with Norwich City, a headlinegrabbing young man of goals. As a 21-year-old, he became

Great Britain, when Kenny Dalglish, then the Blackburn manager, paid £5 million for Quite why people expect young footballers who are

presented with fame and money - vast amounts of it to act sensibly and maturely is a mystery. Sutton did not There was a paternity suit, a icw nightclub incidents, one of : which famously led to his entinearceration in a police cell the night before he signed for

Blackburn.

"When I look back, I did a lot of daft things," he said. "I made some mistakes and I have had to live with them, but we are talking years ago.



Sutton is looking forward to a brighter future as a revitalised centre forward after struggling to establish himself at Blackburn Rovers

Everybody makes mistakes. I've got over the past. I have changed and, yes, I think I have matured. I got married and we have got two little boys. Now I lead a quiet life in a Lancashire village and that's the way I like it. No hassles, no problems and a very settled life. I'm not too interested in what happened in the past any.

Life at Blackburn started perfectiv, but went downhill, even during that first eason, when he liberated by ship medal and formed a partner-ship with Alan Shearer dubbed departure' the SAS. The goals

dried up after Christmas and the next season there were problems with Shearer and Ray Harford, the new manager, whom Sutton condemned recently, for ap-parently almost ruining his career. Then there was the

injury.
There were murmurs at Blackburn that it was not

genuine. "I know what people said, but it was a difficult injury for me," Sutton said. "It wasn't exactly a serious one and that made it all the more frustrating. It was just a niggling one - my tendons in were slipping because the support ripped off the bone — and it

just wouldn't heal." Even before the injury, he was left out of the side by Harford and then propelled backwards into de-Could fence. that decision? Ruthe Shearer lob-

bied for Sutton to be left out in favour of Mike Newell. Sutton is coy on the subject, saying that he got on "reasonably" well with Shearer, but it is clear, since his return to the Blackburn starting line-up, that he has been liberated by Shearer's departure. His return heralded an immediate up-turn in fortune for the club and his goals have helped to guide them off the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership.

Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager, must take some of the credit, but so must Sutton, who again looks every inch the rounded centre forward that prompted Daiglish to spend so much on him. His absence, he said, was not a totally negative

"I don't know if the fact that I've changed as a person has improved me as a player, but I do think that the time I spent out injured has helped me now that I am back," Sutton said. "I never doubted myself, even when I was left out, and I don't think I ever lost form. A long injury makes you stronger. It makes you appreciate things more when you are fit.

"Now I am back as a main striker and I enjoy the respon-sibility of that, too. I played as the second striker behind Alan Shearer and, even though I didn't feel comfortable in that position. I had to accept it. ! was criticised for not scoring goals, but I knew that would happen in that role. I've scored

a few goals now and I think ! am back to the place I started at Blackburn. It might sound funny, but I really enjoy my football, even though we are still struggling, because I am just happy to be playing again, and in a position I enjoy.

Sutton's life certainly seems happier after the trauma of the past year. He is less moody than when he first arrived at Blackburn and certainly more positive. He has direction where once there might have been none.

"I am more relaxed," he said. "I can take criticism on the chin far better than a couple of years ago and I don't let people bother me. I have set myself goals and I can concentrate on them without being

distracted. The only one I have for this season is survival for Blackburn and there is definitely hope now.

"Beyond that, I think Blackburn can get back to where they were. That might help me, because I'd very much like to play for my country. People think I've only had a nightmare at Blackburn, but I scored goals, won a championship medal and got two England B caps.

"I don't know how close came to a full cap, but haven't given up hope yet." Interview over, and Alastair Sim is treating Bob Cratchit to reformed and ghosts banished. The same might be said

No safe haven for Scales against Leeds

LAST Sunday John Scales was at Elland Road for a medical before an expected transfer to Leeds United from Liverpool. This afternoon he is likely to get a honer reception when he returns there as a Tottenham Hotspur player, having elected to join the London club

Having been out for a month through injury. Scales seems unlikely to play in the FA Carling Premiership fixture, although, with Tottenham weakened by the loss of Armstrong and Anderton, he was named in the 18-man squad yesterday. Elland Road is always a hostile place to visit, and Scales might normally prefer to be on the pitch rather than be a sitting target in the stand or on the bench. After Leeds's tough-tackling victory against Chelsea two weeks ago, though, he might

still be safer than on the pitch. "We've got to do that on a regular basis." George Graham, the Leeds manager, said yesterday. Tottenham, whose last trip to the North brought their 6-1 humiliation by Bolton Wanderers, have been warned. Gunnar Halle. Leeds's latest signing, could make his debut, but the unhappy Yeboah is out after injuring a knee.

Liverpool could be un-changed for the visit of Middlesbrough, who will have Emerson in tow. After the embarrassment of the home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday last week - which cost them second place in the Premiership - and other recent failures at Anfield, Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, may be tempted to recall Collymore.

Emerson's return is almost Middlesbrough's only good news, although Mikkel Beck is fit again. With Fjortoft doing well against Leeds in his first game of the season last week, Beck's return is less pressing as Middlesbrough seek to end a run of II Premiership games without a win, Juninho, Pearson and Vickers are all absent and there are doubts about Cox, Mustoe and Fleming. "We've got major problems," Bryan Robson, the Middles-

brough manager, said. Liverpool will move back into second place if Wimbledon falter against rapidly improving Blackburn Rovers at Selhurst Park. Vinnie Jones is on international duty with Wales, so Fear takes over his position and Earle the captaincy, as Wimbledon strive to come to terms with being a top team for others to shoot at.

Joe Kinnear, the manager is at least growing accustomed to it with his talk in recent weeks of taking on Europe, rather than of bolting to Dublin, Blackburn, though, are unbeaten in their previous five games and are looking a different side since Tony Parkes became caretakermanager and Sutton, Wilcox and Le Saux returned to

Parkes is undoubtedly enjoying it, and he confirmed

England will face Italy in Nantes on June 4 next year in their first match in the Tournament of France. The four-team competition, also involving the host nation and Brazil, has been planned as a rehearsal for the 1998 World Cup. England will play France in Montpellier on June 7 and Brazil in Lens on June 10.

that he will be happy to stay in charge until the summer, if Blackburn have to wait that long to appoint Sven Goran Eriksson, the Swede who is, at present, the manager of Sampdoria in Italy. "I'll stay on as long as Jack Walker wants me to, and if it's until the end of the season, that's fair enough," Parkes said yes-terday. He may have to make a change for the match today; Bohinen is standing by for his first game under Parkes if Flitcroft fails a fitness test.

Chelsea travel to Roker Park to take on Sunderland tomorrow with something to prove after their defeat at Leeds raised serious doubts about their resilience. Sunderland will also put them under physical pressure. Hughes and Melville will join their team-mates after playing for Wales, as will Petrescu, the Romania international, who is flying back after his country's

Irish must keep Gould hopes for underdogs at bay seasonal cheer

By DAVID MADDOCK

AFTER a creditable draw with the European champions - in their own back yard, no less surely it would not be asking too much of Northern Ireland to dispose of Albania without a fuss. Wrong. If any side is capable of drawing with Germany and then losing to a bunch of apparent no-hopers. it is Northern Ireland.

In Belfast, unpredictability has been honed to an art form. Thus, Northern Ireland go into the World Cup qualifying match at Windsor Park today supported not even with a weary confidence by the counrry's populous.

Northern Ireland are quite

MATCHES TO COME: Today: Norther Ireland v Alberia. Portugal v Germany March 28 1997: Albenia v Ukraina Northern Ireland v Portugal. April 2: Albenia Northern Ireland v Portugal. April 2: Albenia Northern tretand v Portugal v Appril 22 Autemate v Germany v Utraine; Amreita v Northern tretand, May 7; Utraine v America Utraine; Amreita v Northern tretand, May 7; Utraine v America; Utraine v Germany, Portugal v America; Utraine v Germany, Portugal v America; Utraine v Attenia. Sopt et Germany v Portugal; America v Albenia. Sopt 10; Albenia v America; Utraine v Albenia. Sopt 10; Albenia v America; V America v Illegione v Attenia v Albenia. Sopt 10; Albenia v Illegione v America v Utraine. Oct 11; Germany v Albenia, Portugal v Northern freiand, America v Utraine.

capable of losing to Albania, even after that stirring 1-1 draw in Nuremburg, when they made Germany look very ordinary indeed on their homecoming from a successful campaign at Euro 96. If Northern Ireland are to reach France in 1998, however, then there can be no more repeats of the home performances that saw them lose to Ukraine and draw with Armenia.

The draw in Germany has offered the merest glimmer of hope for qualification, after all seemed lost just two home ries into the campaign. "We got with those indifferent home performances," Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, said, "but we pushed the door open a tiny. crack against Germany and now we need a decent result to force it wider. The door to qualification is still not locked."

As much, in fact, depends on events hundreds of miles away as it does on the proceedings at Windsor Park Assuming that Albania can be overcome and assuming, confidently, that Germany will top the group, then it is the performance of Portugal that could yet influence Northern Ireland's fortunes. A defeat for Portugal in Lisbon by Germany this evening would

help matters. What does not help is a catalogue of injuries that stretch already feeble resources to the limit. Five players have pulled out and, while O'Boyle, Worthington and even Griffin may not be missed, the losses of Gillespie and Magilton are severe

Albania, too, are missing key players, although their problems may seem slight bearing in mind that they had feared that they would not be allowed to play the game at all. Albania were suspended by Fifa, football's world governing body, only two weeks ago after political interference from the Albanian Government, although such problems as there were have been resolved. It remains to been seen if Hamilton can have the same effect on a defence woefully lacking in the previous two home matches.

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AFTER Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, had got together with his international counterparts and negotiated the group seven World Cup qualifying fixture list, he emerged with a smile. The lads wanted Turkey for Christmas and I got it for them. he chuckled. The time

At the National Stadium in Cardiff today, Wales must feast on Turkey if they are to keep alive their hopes of reaching the finals in France in 1998. Though Gould has avoided such puns this week, nothing less than a victory will suffice after the humiliating

Holland 7 Wales 1; Turkey 7 San Martro 1.
Holland; Wales v Turkey, March 29 1997:
Wales v Balgium; Holland v San Marino,
April 2: Turkey v Holland. April 30; San
Marino v Holland; Turkey v Belgium, Jurie
7: Belgium v San Marino Aug 20; Turkey v
Wales, Sept & Holland v Belgium, Sept
10; San Marino v Turkey, Oct 11; Holland
v Turkey; Belgium v Wales.

7-1 defeat against Holland in Eindhoven last month.

It saw Gould, a usually perky character, at his lowest ebb since he took over 16 months ago. He left Holland for Istanbul the next day, to watch Turkey play San Marino, but could not escape the depression. "I had a body, but

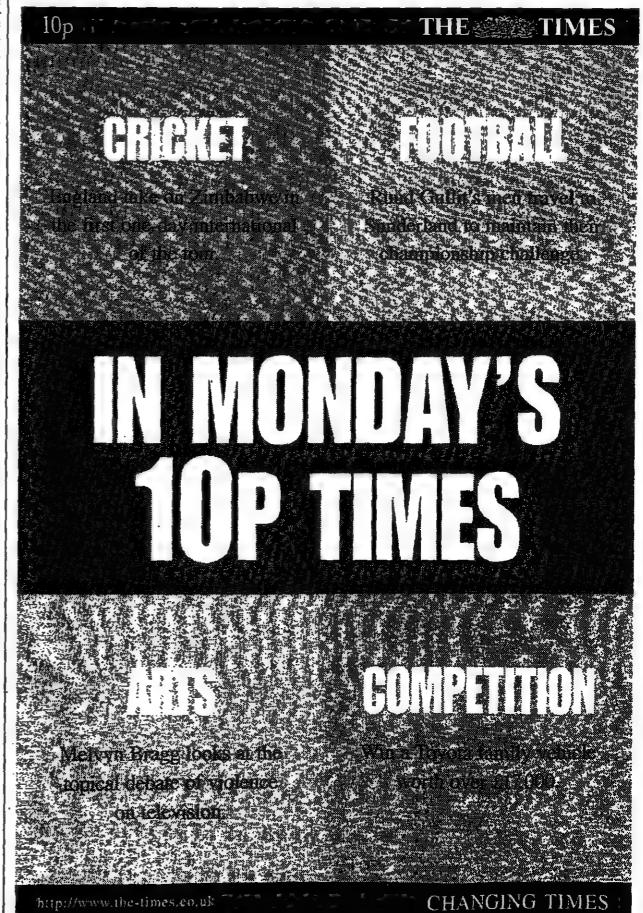
there was no spirit or soul in u," he said. "I felt as if I was just putting one foot in front of Wales have to beat Turkey twice — and probably Bel-gium, too — if they are to finish in second place behind

Holland. They would then play off over two legs against another group runner-up. A trip to France is still possible. Yet Turkey are no push-overs. Though they departed Euro 96 pointless and goalless, they were never over-awed amid such exalted company. Dean Saunders, the Nottingham Forest striker. played for Galatasaray for a season, scoring 21 goals in 28 games, and advises caution this afternoon.

Technically, they are very good, he said. The defenders are comfortable on the ball and they always want to give Hakan Sukur, their best player, as much possession as possible. They perhaps tend to get a bit disorganised, espe-cially in the last 20 minutes, if things aren't going too well for them. Whatever happens, we've got to keep trying to be

Saunders, the scorer of four goals in his past three games for Wales, has registered only two for Forest this season. Hakan, his former team-mate at Galatasaray, has scored 17, ten in the past month. "Wales have to win, but we can stop them," Hakan said. "We must play as a team, we must play

For Gould, the bitter aftertaste of Emdhoven still lingers. He cut a solitary, fortorn figure in Islanbul, 24 hours later, and wants no repetition. He got his players Turkey for Christmas, albeit 11 days early, and it is they who must now do the stuffing.



CRICKET 42 Gough's efforts swing victory England's way



SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 1996

Little put under pressure to sell **Townsend**

By RICHARD HOBSON

BRIAN LITTLE, the Aston Villa manager, will face a dilemma over Andy Townsend, his club captain, in the days ahead. He has already turned down a bid of £750,000 from Celtic for Townsend, the Ireland midfield player, but while insisting that he does not want to sell any of his first team, will find it harder to refuse another offer from the

Townsend, 33, moves out of contract at the end of the season and has been offered a one-year extension by Little. However, Celtic are prepared to agree to a two-year deal with the prospect of the fee being decided by a tribunal if a move takes place in the

Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, is understood to be prepared to bid as high as El million for Townsend. Burns may attempt to set up a deal involving Pierre van Hooij-donk, his unsettled Holland international striker, who Villa have watched on a number of occasions this season.

Ian Woan, the Nottingham Forest midfield player, who has interested Tottenham Hotspur and Everton, is staying at the City Ground, Frank Clark, the Forest manager, said yesterday.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, yesterday emerged from a lunchtime meeting at the Riverside Stadium with Emerson, and his hitherto unhappy wife, to announce that the errant Brazilian is back in the fold and will play his first Premiership game for seven weeks a Antield this afternoon.



Townsend: in demand

"Things look a lot better, and hopefully today has re-solved a lot of problems," Robson said. "Andrea is 100 per cent committed to giving it a go here."

Not even a snowstorm halfway through the meeting to remind her of what a North Eastern winter entails had undermined that resolve. "It is all a bit strange to her, she has never seen snow before," Robson said. "She's a lovely girl, but she is young, and has never been out of Brazil before, not even for a holiday."

The news that an escape to Barcelona was not on the cards may have contributed to Emerson's decision to stay, but Middlesbrough, for their part, are making efforts to help to solve his wife's feelings of isolation.

They are also investigating the possibility of signing Fabinho. Emerson's 20-year old cousin, who is married to Andrea's sister.

Fabinho, a defender, has been staying with Emerson for two months, on an extended holiday, and training with Middlesbrough every day even while Emerson himself was AWOL

Sutton strikes back, page 43

Coach needs answers before five nations' championship



Underwood, training with the England squad at Rochampton yesterday, can see the opportunity to re-establish himself at international level. Photograph: Rebecca Naden

England have points to prove

THE honeymoon for England's refurbished rugby ham this afternoon. When the players reassemble next, it will be for five nations' business. where there is a championship to defend and places in the British Isles touring party to be won. Life will become more

Not that Argentina, opponents in the Save and Prosper international this afternoon. intend to offer merely another stepping-stone to the latest generation of ambitious, bright-eyed England players. Yet there is a lack of continuity in the one-off internationals that England play before Christmas, as opposed to the edge — historic as well as sporting — that the five na-tions' championship provides. That is where the series played overseas; be they three matches between Lions and Springboks, between All Blacks and Wallabies, create

such drama and offer such high stakes. Touring teams here have no such gradual build-up, even during the days when a grand slam of victories over the four home unions was

Rugby Football Union's planners are addressing.

This will also be the last opportunity for Jack Rowell, the England coach, to evaluate Catt at stand-off half, Chris Sheasby at No 8, for example before determining the substance of the XV to do duty in the five nations'. Nobody will be more aware of that than Catt himself. Passed fit yesterday after a blow to the chest. Catt will be aware of the vultures that continue to haunt him, seeking an allround game that, thus far, he has been unable to offer in the

pivotal position. It could be argued, if only for the sake of making a point, that all four teams who have visited England this autumn are better-blessed at No 10: Elton Flatley, of Queensland, Louis Koen, of South Africa A. and Earl Va'a. of Western Samoa, have all displayed qualities apparently beyond the capabilities of English practioners, while Gonzalo Quesada has lacked little in that respect in his four appear-

ances for Argentina on tour.

Alex Wyllie, the Argentinlans' technical coach, believes Quesada to be a much-improved player, even though opposition has not been of the first rank. Built on stronger lines than some of his predecessors, he also possesses an accurate boot, which has made him the party's leading

England, however, will be a different proposition. A scratch England A side proved capable of mastering an Arntina XV -- including five of the team today - at Northampton on Tuesday and there be some expectation

among an anticipated crowd of 55,000 (tickets will be available today) of a victory as comfortable as the 54-21 success over Italy last month.

look better blessed for pace and guile than they were on their last outing, against the New Zealand Barbarians. The restoration of Jeremy Guscott and Tony Underwood to the back division accounts for that and both men will seek to

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

ENGLAND

N D Beal (Northampton) J M Steightholme (Bath) W D C Carling (Harisquins) T Underwood (Newcas

M J Catt (Bath) A C T Gomanaeli (Wasos) G C Rowntree (I eicester) M P Regan (Bristol) J Leonard (Harlequins) TAK Rodber (Northampton/Army) M Ö Johnson (Leicester) S D Shaw (Bristol) L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)

C M A Sheasby (Wasps) Referee: T Henning (South Africa) REPLACEMENTS: 15 JE 8 Content (Bath), 17 A D King (Wasps), 18 K P P Bracken (Saracras), 19 B B Clarke (Richmond), 20 R J K Hardwick (Covertry), 21 P B T Greening

argentina 15 E Jurado (Jockey Rosario 14 G Carnardon (Alumni) E Simone (Licea Navai) L Arbizu (Belgrano)* D Albanese (SIC)

G Cruesada (Hindu) N Femendez Miranda (Hindu) T Grau (Liceo) C Promenzio (Duencies) M Recgiardo (Castres) R Martin (SIC)

P Sporleder (Curupayti) P Camertinctox (Regalas BV) P Bouza (Attétiço Rosario) TV: BBC1: 2.55pm V: BSC1: 2.50m Gaptan REPLACEMENTS: 18 F Soler (Tala), 17 F Gardia (Alumni), 18 C Barres (Cordoba), 19 M Scelzo (Banco Hipotecano), 20 O Hasan Jalii

himself at full back in the winter of 1994, before Catt came along to oust him. Beal's chance arises only because of injury to Tim Stimpson, but, like Stimpson, Beal has waited long for his opportunity; he is old enough, too, to exercise discretion, but that he can act as a strike runner is not in doubt. Like Stimpson, he has a breadth of stride that does not immediately suggest speed, until opponents struggle to reach him; unlike Stimpson, he has a willowy swerve and sidestep honed in sevens tour-

cannot be omitted in the new

to Nick Beal, who may care to remember that Paul Hull

looked to have established

The same opportunity falls

naments, which could serve him well today. Underwood's play this sea-son reflects a new-found contentment in the North East. "I couldn't be happier that I am at the moment," he said after training at a damp, raw Roehampton. "I had to get out of the City. I've embraced the professional life. I love the people and the club at Newcastle and I think I'm playing as well as ever." He knows well, however, that,

come February, the injured

his place on the left wing back and that the management will

have to decide once and for all upon their optimum midfield. ears a settled unit, although they will receive a serious examination in the set-pieces from Argentina. The England squad have watched videos of their opponents shunting South Africa in Buenos Aires, they respect the established second-row pairing of Pedro Sporleder and German Lianes (both of whom played in Argentina's last international at Twickenham, the 51-0 defeat of 1990) and they are aware of the qualities of Rolando Martin, the flanker, who has regularly scored against international opponents.

Lisandro Arbizu, the Argentine captain and centre, is keen to demonstrate that his country can produce backs with flair rather than the tight forwards for whom Argentina is renowned. "We must believe in ourselves and show we can play against anyone," he said. eager to forget the half-century posted by England six years ago when two of England's seven tries came from Guscott. A repeat performance today would do his case for retention

Botham decides on rugby as path to fame

LIAM BOTHAM has decided to concentrate on playing professional rugby union instead of county cricket, partly because of the pressures of trying to emulate the Test match feats of his father, lan. Liam, 19, has signed a threeyear contract with West Hartlepool, the Courage Clubs Championship first division club, much to the vexation of Hampshire, for whom he made his county champion-ship debut last August, when he took five for 67 against Middlesex, including the wicket of Mike Gatting.

"I have enjoyed both cricket and rugby since my school days at Rossall and perhaps everyone assumed I would concentrate on cricket," Botham said. "While it wasn't an easy decision to make, I have always had a slight

preference for rugby.
"I have discussed the position not only with my father, who has never pushed me to follow either route and has expressed his support whatever I decided, and also with professional advisers."

Ian, who is in Zimbabwe as England's bowling adviser and a Sky television commen-tator, backed his son. "He has made the right decision," he said. "Liam is one of the best centre propects I have ever seen. It's a good decision because, if he had played cricket, he was always going to "be compared with me."

Liam, a centre threequarter. scored a try on his senior debut for West Hardepool against Watsonians in October. "Mark Ring [the club's director of rugby and I had to decide whether I am good



Botham: strong centre

enough to play at this level," Botham said. "Mark believes I am worth this contract and I am determined to prove him

Unlike his father, who played occasional League foot-ball for Scunthorpe United as well as representing England in 102 Test matches, he is to concentrate on one sport.

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-However, Tony Baker, the Hampshire chief executive, said that he thought that Liam had made the decision too early. "I cannot see any reason in principle why he cannot play both cricket and rugby if that's what he needs to do and everyone is agreeable," he said. "I would not be 100 per cent happy to see him playing rugby union ahead of cricket if he was my son, because the chances of him suffering a serious injury are so high, especially when you consider

his surname. "All it will take is for some lumbering great forward who fancies getting his name in the papers to have a go at him and his career could be finished." However, Ring believes it is virtually impossible" to now

combine summer and winter sports at a professional level.

England triumph, page 42 West Indies toil, page 42

Growing acclaim leaves Bruno's future blooming



ust as one swallow does not make a summer, a defeat by Mike Tyson does not make a winter of discontent for Frank Bruno. Big Frank will be back next summer. It will be a Frank Bruno you have never seen before.

From the topmost penthouse roof garden to the lowly basement garden flat, from the cottage garden to the wall garden, it will be Brunoh. Brun-oh, right up to August. Know what I mean? Forget the

record books and the 40 and five shis boxing record stuff. Bruno has been immortalised as a flower. Impatiens Bruno Fl hybrid, he is, better known to hanging basket experts as the busy Lizzie. It is a half-hardy annual but, like Gracie Fields's aspidistra,

Srikumar Sen discovers another seedy side to boxing, but finds everyone is potty about this budding champion

In the words of Thompson and

Morgan, of Ipswich — the seed sellers — it is "big and beefy". This Frank Bruno is strong and durable for tough conditions. According to the catalogue, it is "the world's first tetraploid impatiens, the reason for its extra vigour". The flowers are 212 inches across and come in stunning colours: red, orange, salmon, rose, blush, violet and white.

Floranova Ltd, of Dereham, Norfolk - the growers - can clearly

"the biggest busy Lizzie in the expect a big turnover. It will be world." not be long before everyone is asking for a bunch of Brunos.

Sports Illustrated, the prestigious American magazine, mentioned this new flower in its section entitled, "This Week's Sign that the Apoca-lypse is Upon Us". It said: "A variety impatiens being sold in the Thompson and Morgan seed catalog - 'stunning large flowers' that come in 'scintillating bright colors' have 'extra vigour' and are 'easy to

handle' - is named after the British

Americans do not have a high regard for British heavyweights and never tire of making jokes about them, I asked Sports Illustrated if it was trying to tell us something about our national hero. "Oh no." Jack McCallum, one of

the editors in charge of the page, said, "we just thought it was so incongruous to have a flower named after a fighter that it was worth putting in the magazine. We talked about it and thought it would have been better if the flower had been named after a more brutish fighter, like Mike Tyson or Andrew Golota." Clearly the Americans don't know too much about how our mums and

dads see Britain's favourite son.

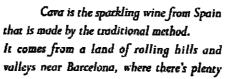


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Dancing with the Cayman stingrays travel - 15-20



SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 1996



Smart route to the Lord

look for a sign from Jesus: a comcidence, anything like that, would do.

Waiting at the traffic lights outside the church of Holy Trinity Brompton, was a black London taxi. Inside, the driver asked: "Have you been to HTB? On the Adalas course?" The answer to robust soons was yes. Is Nicky Gumbel still running it? He's a very charismatic figure. Mr Strand had been discussing conscidences with us, a group of new Christians, a few minutes earlier. "I did that," continued the driver, "and joined the church. Brought along my guitar and played music with them." He turned again: "They are trypo-

crites and phoneys.* Tomorrow the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will visit HTB, as the church is universally known, and give his blessing to the extraordinary Alpha course which has brought to Jesus thousands of unlikely souls: the beautiful,

the young, the rich; wretched old murderers rotting in jail. Sandy Millar, the vicar, chose a curious phrase during Sunday worship last month when announcing Dr Carey's visit. "He is on our side," Mr Millar assured the congregation. "He is a friend."

The Alpha course began at mons with astonishing speed in the past three years, reaching 380,000 people in 55 countries."

It is controversual.

The harshest criticism is that this beginners guide to Chris-tianity is too concerned with instant supernatural signs as evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in particular, the miraculous gift of tongoes.

Since joining the Alpha course in October, I have

watched healthy young adults degenerate into a helpless mass of quivers, jerks, babbles and means belitting a victim of a cruel degenerative illness.

The congregation believe they are saving England's capital for Jesus. Mr Millar tells

They are young, professional, good-looking — and they have found God in droves. Dominic Kennedy signed up to discover the allure of an Alpha course

them: "The enemy is devouring and destroying London." Si-HIB in 1979 and has spread mon Downham, a younger priest, illustrating a letter of Paul to the Counthians, informs worshippers that ancient Corinth had many places of worship, including a temple with 1.000 prostitutes. The city was a cross between New York. Los Angeles and Las Vegas. "Strangely like contemporary

London," he told us. The latest Alpha course began ten weeks ago: Six hundred people crowded into HTB. The most striking thing about the worshippers is their youth. Most are in their twenties and only a handful are older than 35. The next shock: they are physically attractive, quite unlike the sad. Biblehashing God Squad types you

who hovered around the Christian fellowship because they could not make friends. Also,

many are very rich. The ecumenical which is free, consists of ten evenings of talks, plus a residential weekend. This formula has been so successful that HTB has imposed a copyright on the name "Alpha" in relation to Christian courses.

For the first time, we heard Mr Gumbel, the curate, speak. His subject: "Who is Jesus?" Mr Gumbel, like many of the clergy at HTB, is a lawyer who saw the light and became a priest. He is a compelling speaker. Gently, he demolishes people's doubts, beginning by presenting evidence that the Bible is an authentic account of

remember from college days historical events, far more reliable than other classical texts. Seventy-five minutes into the evening he is interrupted by the first mobile phone going off in

the congregation. He moves on. Quoting from the New Testament, he points to the unparalleled eminence of Christ's teaching and the 550 witnesses who saw the resurrected Jesus. He relies heavily on the devastatingly powerful arguments of C.S. Lewis that Christ must have been just what He said - the Son of God - or else mad or bad. By the end of the evening, many in the church were well on their way

to accepting that He was God. Cardinal Hume, we were told, had just approved the Alpha course, following painstaking study by Roman Catho-

lic theologians. A wise move. A third of the people there seemed to be lapsed Catholics, includ-

ing me. So it continued weekly. First we ate, then stood to sing cheerful hymns led by a "rock group". People clapped, many held up their arms and swayed. The mood was ecstatic. Next Mr Gumbel would lecture us with modern parables, funny and heartbreaking, all expertly

chosen to advance his case. Finally, we had an evangelical form of "group therapy". Split into huddles of ten, we discussed our spiritual journeys, prayed and exchanged confidences. In these groups, people told near-strangers, sometimes through tears, about addictions, childhood abuse, abortions.

Mr Gumbel's argument progressed relentlessly and the direction was becoming clearer. In our Bibles, we were steered to those books dealing with the lives of the apostles -Acts, of course, but also the letters of Paul to the Romans,

Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians. Philippians and Thessalonians. The emphasis was on miracles, healing, prophecy.

Meanwhile, people were scrabbling towards God. Many on the course work in the City of London, dealing this, broking that. One such businessman confessed he had said his night-time prayers for the first time in 20 years. They were answered. At 3am he had awoken with the words, "Buy The Economist magazine ringing in his head. That morning he followed the mysterious advice and found that the journal contained an article about a career change he had been dithering over for a long time. Surely this was a sign from God.

Our experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit was to take place in the unlikely setting of Pontin's holiday camp at Chichester, West Sussex, down the appropriately-named

Continued on page 2

19 COUNTRY DEE 11 HOME LIFE 12 FAMILY LIFE. 13 TRAVEL.... . 15-20 GAMES.....



his looks like being the worst Christmas ever. Not because of commercialism, or because everyone is forgetting the lickle baby Jesus, or because people are more likely than ever to divorce, murder and commit suicide. But because

of the clichés. It is the very act of blaming the decline of Christmas on commercialism. irreligiousness and the breakdown of family values that is ruining it. Not the commercialism. irreligiousness or collapsed morals, per se. Take, for example, the "goodwill" detectives patrolling Selfridges in search of customers being nice to their fellow men, and rewarding them with cases of wine, meals and gift tokens. Nice idea, you suppose. For you are enslaved by the "Christmas shop-

oing is hell" cliché. But how much the worse will it end up if thousands of people descend on Oxford Street, intent on remunerative selflessness? "After you, sir." No, no. After you ..."

You will not be able to move for the scrums of shoppers fighting to let each other through doors in the hope of winning a bottle of plonk. And when these snakes in the grass discover that you are not, after all, a planted victim laden with prizes, they are liable to haul you back through the door and demand some other recompense for their wasted politesse.

The identification of the cliche causes the misery, you see, not the cliche itself. A similar thing is at work in Jingle All The Way. Here, you are invited to spend seven quid watching the world's most experi-

SERIOUS SHOPPING

CHRISTMAS STAFF

sive actor having a Christmas shopping nightmare. Not only do you have to do it, you have to watch Arnie doing it, too. And yet Schwarzenegger is not attempting to solve the cliché any more than Selfridges, merely to perpetuate it for profit. Like the charlatans selling wooden tree decorations on the back of the "Christmas is so tacky nowadays" clichė.

The thing about the Christmas shopping truism, though, is that while it may be unpleasant for you, the customer, it is billions of blue blistering barnacle times worse for the people who work in the shops. When I worked at Harrods in 1987 - where Christ-



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mas shoppers go to die — I earned £3.13 an hour (before tax) with half an hour's unpaid lunch break, and all I did was field complaints from people who were going to be out of

the hellhole in a few minutes anyway. Give the staff a break. They are 18, they have no choice but to work there, they do not know how to work the till, or where the loos are, and what is more, they do not care. It is not their fault it is Christmas.

So when you ask to pay £17.33 in gift vouchers, £29 on Access, and the balance on your House of Fraser storecard and the boy at the till bursts into tears, do not tell him that Harrods is not what it was. Neither are you. These staff are nicer than you, poorer than you, and having a much worse time. Likewise, when a spotty girl says she doesn't know the name of the

toy that your nephew saw on telly. which might have ended in "onia" but was almost certainly purple. do not tell her her life is going nowhere. She is only saving up to go to Thailand before starting her astrophysics course at Cambridge. and she is probably quite sensitive about her spots, and may even believe that you could have her sacked because you once met Mohammed Al Fayed at one of Jonathan Aitken's parties.

Nor is it fun, by the way, to work on commission in designer clothes shops. So do not lose your temper when a young man asks if he can help you. He will not be even slightly impressed that you are well aware he is on commission and quite frankly he can take his Uriah Heapish obsequiousness elsewhere. He is paid practically

nothing, and will only get his commission for the month if he reaches a certain target (at Ralph Lauren in 1991 it was about a million shirts an hour). He works an 11-hour day. He has been driven mad by Nat King Cole's Christmas album playing over and over on a 50-minute loop, so that the very words "Jack Frost nipping at your nose" will drive him into a cold sweat for the rest of

And he would much rather you just bogged off and left him in peace. But, since you are there, you serve no purpose at all unless you pull out your wallet and give him a pile of shirts to put against his staff number, so that he can eat next

Christmas shopping a nightmare? Bah, humbug.

It's in the pan

FINDING the right pan or pot can be tricky. Stick to quality and try the catering trade supply shops their prices can be lower than expected.

■ Stainless steel is all the rage, and justly so. Chefs prefer the shiny metal to aluminium because it does not react with acidic food, the metal cleans quickly and tomatoes, fruit and wine sauces cook free of any tinny taste. Black metal looks good, is non-stick and never rusts.

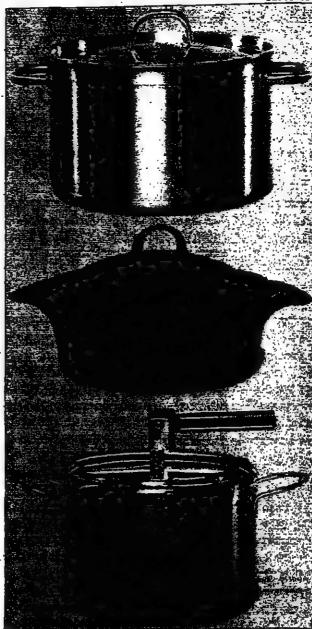
■ Sue Parker serves a top-of-the-range mixture.



Three-tier stainless steel "Hackman" combines a sauce pan, steamer and porringer and a compartment for keeping things warm. Available in various sizes, from



Copper pan, left, £105.25, and chicken pan £32, from David Mellor (0171-730 4259). Black, saucepan, £35, Jerry's



Bougest stainless steel stew pan, £64.60 from Staines Catering Supplies, as before. Chunky cast iron Gourmet casserole, £26, from Ikea (0181-208 5600). Attiva stainless steel pressure cooker, £75, from Habitat (0645 334433).

Continued from page I Clappers Lane. HTB is the

only place where people pay for a Pontin's weekend with a Coutts chequebook kept in the pocket of a Harrods overcoat. The church overwhelmingly attracts middle-class and successful people because it recruits by word of mouth in places such as the City.

By now these people, superficially so privileged, were

beginning to strip away their veneers. The picture editor of The Sunday Telegraph, Nigel Skelsey, told movingly how he had been a teaboy on a photographic magazine when his father died. Mr Skelsey. who had always felt an enormous failure to his parents, became the editor two weeks later. "My father would have been enormously proud of he said. "The sense of that."

WE KNOW IT'S PERFECT, BUT WE TAKE ANOTHER 1000 HOURS

JUST TO MAKE SURE. MASTER DATE.

frustration that he wasn't there to see it was crushing." How unbearably painful was the grief Mr Skelsey carried for 15 years, acting tough and earning the nickname "The Beast" until a friend prayed with him and, sobbing his heart out, he found Christ.

Mr Gumbel led a session entitled "How can I be filled with the Spirit?" He encouraged us to be like emotional

Hebrews, ready to accept the gift of "tongues", a super-natural language which would help us to communicate with God. "God," he said, "is not English."

Mr Gumbel asked us to put

our hands out. He prayed: "Fill us with your Spirit", then described aloud what he saw. The Spirit of God has come and is filling people all around the room. Some people are shaking. Some of you feel a great weight on your hands. Others, tears are rolling down your face and you are thinking, "Why am I crying?" That is the Spirit of God, don't be embarrassed. Don't resist the Spirit. Some of you feel waves coming over you. Waves and waves of liquid love. . . "

We were invited to sing in tongues. What should have been a cacophonous babble sounded strangely melodic and beautiful, the men's deep voices washed over by the rising spontaneous harmonies of the women, the words meaningless. Like a Turkish ballad, exotic but not completely alien. Around the room, people were crying. One woman was gripped by a violent seizure which rocked her body back and forth.

Back at HTB, the course developed a new urgency. Mr Millar lectured us on the existence of the Devil. Next week we were told how important it was to spread the Good News. The following week was a healing session. We were told to lay hands on each other and pray for cures. "In this church men pray with men and women with women. We don't want to bring the faith into disrepute," said Jeremy Jennings of the pastoral team. "We must be as cunning as snakes and as

innocent as doves."

Mr Gumbel received a letter from a murderer on the Alpha course at prison in Portland, Dorset. The man, who had been beaten and sexually abused as a child, agreed to let two Christians pray with him in the jail. "I held my eyes tightly shut," he wrote. "After a couple of minutes a bright light came in from my right side, then disappeared, and I felt relaxed and at peace with my mind for the first time in 50 years."

So what of coincidence? Obvious miracles are rare in our times so HTB encourages followers to believe that coincidences are signs from God. An article in the church's newspaper describes a solicitor's conversion after a remarkable series" of "coincidences". Among these were her gas

"In this church, men pray with men and women with women. We don't want to bring the faith into disrepute. We must be as pure as doves" Pastoral worker

"I shut my eyes and a bright light came in from my right side, then disappeared, and I felt relaxed and at peace in my mind for the first time in 50 years"

Convicted murderer

breaking down so she had to have a bath at a Christian friend's home, and a Christian coming to talk to her after thinking she was waving when she was in fact adjusting

What should I make of a taxi driver who chanced to be stationary on one of London's busiest streets, directly outside the church, and warned me igainst HTB? Mr Millar, in his sermon about the Devil, told us of a girl returning from her Alpha weekend to receive a telephone call from a former boyfriend. She realised it was

Satan trying to tempt her. By the church's own logic, this encounter cannot have been an accident. So who sent the stranger to warn me away from HTB, the Holy Spirit or the Devil? The trouble is, I believe it was just a

• For details of courses, write to the Alpha Department, Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Road, Landon SW7 UA (0171-590 8273).

Cover photograph and by PETER NICHOLLS

THE EVIDENCE: HOW ALPHA WORKED



"I have been given my life back. It is quite incredible"

PHOTOGRAPHER MELINDA WELLS, 26, believes she has been healed by the Holy Spirit. A wedding photographer, she had been suffering from ME for three years and went to the home of another church member to pray. The next morning she woke to find her symptoms had gone: the aching knee and shoulder joints which doctors had mistaken for arthritis, the fluid around her eyes, the exhaustion.
"I had been feeling like a dead person," she says. "L was sleeping during the day and watching my life disappear. My friend prayed and God came into that environment and healed me. I really

have been given my life back. It is quite incredible." Miss Wells had sought cures through conventional medicine, homeopathy, dietetics, aromatherapy, Chinese healing and acupuncture. She is now sparkling with energy and waking early. The pained expression that one could see on her face at the beginning of the

CLUB OWNER

PAUL COWLEY, 41, runs Champneys, the exclusive sports club in London's West End. When friends ask how he can be a Christian and wear a Rolex, he tells them: "My walk with God doesn't mean that I have to wear sackeloth."

Four years ago, a preacher first "laid hands" on him and prayed. "My hands started to shake a bit. I am not a shaker. I am quite a controlled guy," Mr Cowley says. "Now I know that was God touching me by His

After being guided to-wards Alpha, he married his girlfriend and found the strength to write to the son he had walked out on when the boy was three, and to his elderly father from whom he was estranged for years.

The boy, now a teenager. works at Harrods and has come to live with his father. Mr Cowley, who spent time: in a remand centre for theft in his youth, helps run Alpha at prisons, including



"Walking with God doesn't mean wearing sackcloth"

CAPT LET MITCHE THE GOLD SEAL ON T CASEBACK OF YOUR PARTY BATE CONTINUE IT'S A BATEN YOU GAY NE ON COMPLETED TO PUBLICATION BY MASTER-WATCH WHILE INCH SATS 1000 HOURS - SIN MAGNETIC PELLIS AND CALCULATED SHOOKS THE TTO HAMP OF THE CAURSE SOLV 447 MUTURALITY CALLEGAR MONEMENT PERFORME FLAWLESSEL THEN AS THE 1 DO NOTE, 10 TELL YOU THE DATE SAL AUGUSTIN AND TIME (III THE SECOND JACGED LECOURTRE'S MASTER



JAECER-LECOULTRE

Designers go hell for leather

Forget heavy metal bands and bikers. This season's leather gets back to its cool roots with clean cuts in chocolate and toffee colours. Grace Bradberry reports

attitude - often bad attitude. Since the 1950s it has been associated with youth rebellion, and the striking of a cool pose.

Olivia Newton John wore it in Grease when she wanted to-impress John Travolta. James Dean made it his own. But it also has more dubious associations with heavy metal bands, biker culture and the sort of men who think sewing beer mats to their jeans is a

But leather still does have attitude — if it's cut lean, mean and tassle-free. This season the styles may be retro, but uncluttered silhouettes are making leather fashionably

wearable again. Clean tailoring has been applied to everything, from lightweight shirts to sleeveless shift dresses, as well as jeans and bootcut trousers. (Thankfully, it's a far cry from the fringed 1980s boleros with silver and suede metallic patchwork designs and a mi-cro mini to match.)

When you buy leather it's important to recognise the look or era that has inspired it. Svelte hard-line trench coats evoke the spirit of 1930s Berlin, but they need to be teamed with knee length skirts or lean trousers to complete the effect. Agnès b has a pared-down shift with clear 1960s influences. Jigsaw's tan doublebreasted pea-coat and Naf Naf's zip-up cropped jacket are reminiscent of a 1970s chase movie - Starsky and Hutch rampaging in the streets, their leather jackets distressed by fights with criminals.

Of course, leather will always be associated with bikers and Michael Jackson in his Bad phase. High street chains, however, are relegating fashion frivolities to PVC and concentrating on quality. leather classics with a wear-

French Connection's leather pieces may appear expensive at £399 for a coat and £289 for a jacket, but Jill Read, the company's merchandising quality leather that carries through from season to season. On the back of its success, key shops will feature leather in chocolate, beige and camel throughout the summer and well into their winter 1997-98

CH ALPHA WORKED

range. This shift into other colours has been a key factor in making leather chic again. There's nothing wrong with black, and it's a good season straddler, but it needs to be chosen carefully or it can look like something Del and Rod-ney might sell on their market jackets from DKNY, or



LEATHER appeared in abun-Many designers diverged from the simple, sleek, black leather coat and experimented with trimmings, texture and colour. Coats were edged in fur on collars and cuffs by the Italian label Callaghan (above), while Donns Karan's DKNY label (below) showed betted military jackets with epaulette detailing, worn-in waisted jackets and 1970s peacoats in rustic reds and olive.



seem a one-season wonder. but it has proved such a hit that it now looks a sure bet for summer too. The sweet-wrapper colours of last year are giving way to chocolate truffle, toffee and caramel shades, which all work well in leather.

For those whose confidence matches their wallet size, there are a few outlits among the browns and blacks which may add a touch of vibrance to an already pallid winter ward-robe. Distressed burgundy

ut beware: add a little city grime and everyday dirt, and what started out as a shade of ecru can be transformed into dull pigeon grey. With expensive and often delicate soft leather, scratching and

> French Connection has a number of tips to offer. The first is to use a good waterproof spray before you step outside the door — one freak rainstorm can have disastrous and irreversible effects.

staining is all too easy.

shell tops and matching maxi

skirts, or Jigsaw's smooth

almond jackets all catch the

For a sudden spill, you can use a damp cloth, although every now and then you'll also need to send the piece to a specialist dry cleaners for a full make-over.

The final tip is only for the brave: the old wives' tale of soaking your leather for one and a half minutes in a lukewarm bath of salt and vinegar to remove stains ap-parently does also work. Additional research by Deborah Brest.





Amaya Arzuaga, £100, from Harvey Nichols, SW1 (0171-734 0123). Boots by Armando Poliini, 35 Brook Street, W1 (0171-629 7606) RIGHT: Black leather jacket, £520, by Agnés b, 111 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-235 3477).

Gream sieeveless Merino wooi poloneck, £64, by John Smedley, from a selection at Selfridges, W1 (0171-580 5075)

£128, from The Gap, selected





leather pea-coat, £350, by Jigsaw, 126 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4484). Copper skinny-rib poloneck, £40, by French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-580 2507). Chocolate brown trousers, \$27.50, from Miss Selfridge, 221 Oxford Street, W1 (0181-910 1359)

LEFT: Navy leather single-breasted trench cost. £399, and matching knee-length skirt, £130, both by French Connection (as before); navy cashmere ribbed poloneck, £149, by Brora, 344 King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 3697). Gold secum belt, £39, by Otto Glantz at Ferwicks, 63 New Bond St, W1. Black elastic knee boots, £195, by

Armando Pollini (as before)

Photographer: Steva Poole. Stylist: Deborah Brett, Hau and make-up: Helen Bannon at Mandy Coakley. Model: Karine Develay at Models One. Catwalk photographs

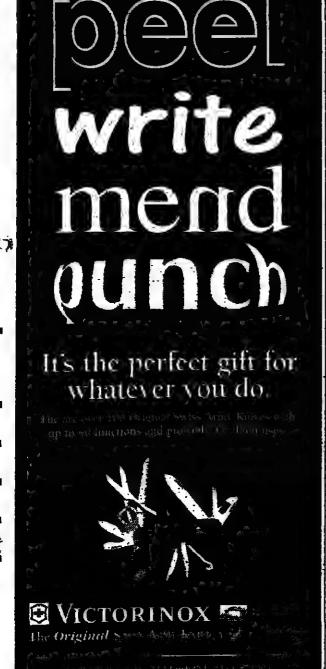


Contemplation.

Besides being one of the most enduring of life's little pleasures, Gloag's Gin is an ever-dependable complement to contemplation. Whilst the discerning fellow marshals his thoughts, he can ponder over its smooth yet crisp character and the fragrant aroma of eleven

herbs and botanicals. THE Classic GIN.





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GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q Basil is susceptible to infestation and even destruction by fly. Are insecticides which can be used, given that the leaves may be eaten shortly after spray ing! - I innes, Betch-worth Surrey.

A There are insecticides you can use on fruit and regetables which are shortly to be eaten. Many have a don't eat-by period that is as short as one day. You either trust it or you don't. Look out for active ingredients such as permethrin, malathion, retenone and quassia, but always check on the packet how long has to be left before eating. Basil, like many another plant, is less susceptible to fly when grown outdoors. If you hate to spray, outdoors is safer for basil, even though there are more pests around.

Late this autumn I planted a Campsis radicans and a fremontodendron against the front, southwest-facing wall of my house. What are their chances of surviving the winter, and how should 1 protect them? Also, is the campsis self-clinging or does it require support? -J. Whittaker. Tring, Herts.

Nothing risked, nothing gained. They will both grow at Tring, I am sure, although they are on the tender side. The fremontodendron. a yellowflowered Californian shrub. is easier to flower and can be grown tight to the wall. Campsis, the trumpet vine. needs a lot of heat to do well, it produces aerial roots which will cling to brickwork, but extra support is also needed to stop those long stems unpecling autumn is a poor time to plant lender species because they have no time to establish before the trials of winter. May or June is better, but never mind. It is best to erect a shelter over your plants, either of netting or sacking on canes. Protect the roots from frost with a coarse mulch. If it snows, don't let the ice melt onto the new roots, shovel it away before the thaw.

Our 100-year-old yew Our 100-year-old yew hedge has been colonised by ivy, and the gaps in the middle of the bedge house a sturdy colomy of it. I feel it should be

removed, but would app vour advice. Is it hedge is dying, or vice versa? - G. Bateman, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

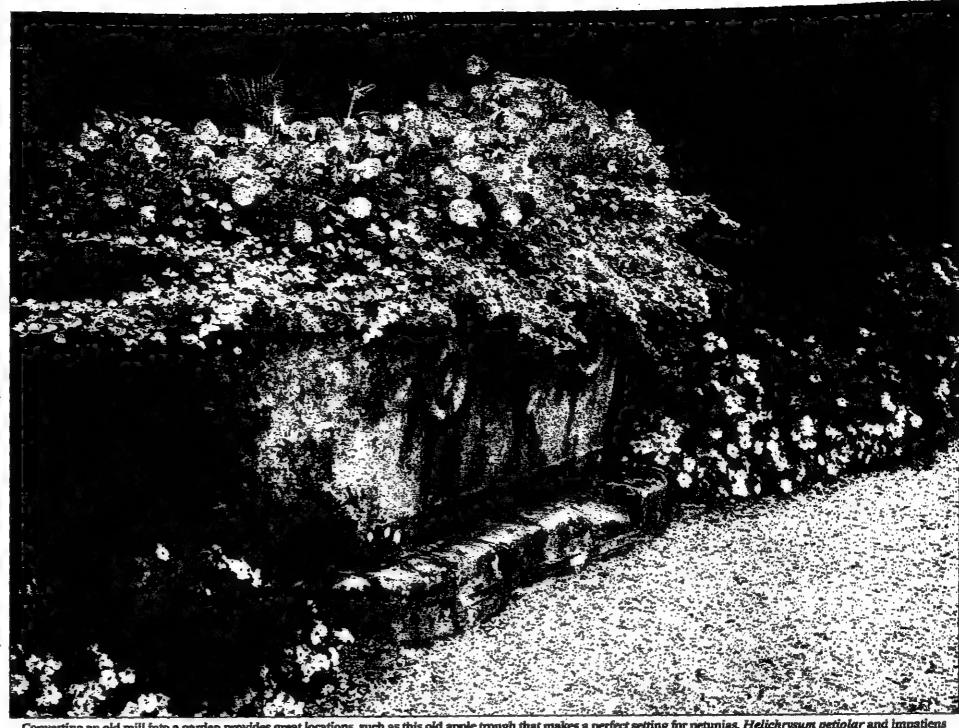
Do try to remove it — if you can. It will be a foul. filthy job. fighting your way into the old hedge. The greatest risk to your hadre from ity is that of hedge from ivy is that of being shaded out, as the ivy reaches the top and smothers the yew growth. If you keep the ivy under control it will not kill the hedge. On the other hand. your hedge is probably dying out because it is very old and underfed; it is easy prey for the ivy. Remove the ivy now, then next spring feed the hedge with dried blood and a mulch of manure. Watch it recover for a year or two, before deciding whether you need to go down the serious road of cutting the hedge back to the trunks, to regenerate it. It may be that this is the only way of refilling major cavities in its canopy.

Q evergreen clematis. I want to buy an What species are readily available, and where can I find them? - B. Smith. Mansfield, Notts.

A Evergreen ciematis are available, but they do not fit into the general pattern of clematis, and cannot be used in the same way. Clematis armandii is the best evergreen, with large leaves, and grows vigorously to 30ft, similar to Clematis montana. It is not as hardy as most clematis, and needs a sheltered position. Without this, the leaves will look desperately shabby by spring which defeats the object of being evergreen. very vigorous species suitable for clothing a pillar or low wall. It flowers in winter too, with small creamy flowers spotted reddish-purple inside. Freckles' is a good flowered form. and C. balearioa is slightly more vigorous, with fernier foliage. Any of the mailorder clematis specialists will sell these varieties. Renders should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend.

The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN, We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

Stephen Anderton on how to make a raised garden, even from the fixtures of an old cider mill



Cider with posies is so sweet

troughs is a chore. And the smaller and shallower they are the more often it has to be done. But if you put in the right plants, you can at least have interesting results and keep the

I once looked after a garden that had a tall wall with a string of very shallow stone troughs for capstones. There was perhaps only 3in of space for soil, and even then the cavity had a lip at one side to drain it. Anything planted there would have to love drought

One good answer would have been to plant nothing. Mine was to fill the troughs with a mixture of peat and cow manure in equal parts and plant the troughs with low, hardy succulents such as stonecrop or houselecks. It gave an interesting top to the wall without detracting from its visual strength.

The peat and manure mixture is excellently gluey, as well as nutri-tious, and can be used even on sloping roofs for attaching clumps of

Black textured leather file with nine ring trigger mechanism and inside front and back pockers with pen loop. Stationery pack includes: 1997 diary week-to-view:

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A friend of mine has recently restored an old cider mill which stood in her garden. Its wooden beams, to which the horse was fastened, were sagged and decayed, and the building over it had long gone. She had gardened it for years, filling the shallow ring-shaped trough in which the apples were crushed with herbs such as lavender and costmary. which would stand drought.

But couch grass found its way in. and the wooden beams threatened finally to fall to pieces. The structure now stands thoroughly renewed, in oak as before, and ready for another

But what to plant in the apple mough? There is only 9in of depth to fill with soil. although the whole circle is perhaps 7ft in diameter and must contain a reasonable volume. The vertical apple-crushing stone, which the horse drove around the trough, is still there but fixed.

Drainage, because the trough is made of four stones imperfectly bound together with iron, is excellent. It must leak like a cider-mill. So what would I suggest? Herbs

again? No, it is all too smart now for a fuzzy, Laura Ashley capping of herbs. It is also a long way to lean into the middle of the trough to weed it, which is probably why it became full of

If you really piled the whole trough high with manure and old compost. you could get enough volume in there to grow gourds in it for a year, and train them up the woodwork to hang down like traitors' heads on a gibbet. It would be fun, but you would have to water it a lot.

But what if you wanted only a little watering and the trough filled level with soil? I might be tempted to keep it clean and simple; to fill it with a massed planting of a low grass, perhaps, which would move in the wind and keep the sense of circular

motion in the trough.

The yellow grass Hakonechloa macra Aureola is frequently recommended for pots. It grows to about 10in and stays looking pale and supple, if bleached, until February. Established plannings wave beautifully, like a field of barley ready for harvest. I would not want to use a

grass which stayed in tight, fanshaped clumps. It would have to be one that would blend together to make a mat

It would certainly be wise with any soft planting such as grasses to add a good quantity of water-retaining polymer (SwelGel or Broadleaf P4) to the bottom layer of compost, to ensure the trough did not dry out in case my watering was erratic. Everyone forgets now and then. But I would keep it to the bottom layer only, so that winter drainage around the necks of the plants was still good.

acrificing the sense of movement, it might be fun to try a mass planting of that grassy. black-leaved member of the lily family, Ophiopogon planiscapus Nigrescens, which grows to 5in and. if it would stand the heat, would certainly look remarkable. I like to see it massed, and it needs the contrast of stone or paving to make it show up. I saw a whole pudding stone rockery planted with it last year, which will develop into a black bank shot with white stones.

What about dwarf bulbs? It is probably too hot for them in summer. Or how about nerines to flower in autumn, a circle of shocking pink standing in the trough, and mulched with gravel? It is a thought, but it would only work in a milder climate or by the seaside. Inland they need the warmth of the ground in winter.

And what if I did no watering at all? The answer is to put a layer of old compost in the bottom of the trough. cover it with old newspapers, and then cap it with a sea of pebbles. Then puncture the simplicity with just two or three clumps of slate-grey houseleeks, planted to have contact with the compost layer below.

While very coarse, 2-3in rounded river gravel might do; there is something appealing about the idea of larger, rounded pebbles sitting in there, like a cargo of apples waiting to roll. It would be fun to arrange them so that the colour changed from larger and darker in front of the crushing stone to smaller and paler in its wake. Much more fun than herbs. Herbs you can have almost

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Winter wonderlands

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

Royal Botanic Garden. Edinburgh, Lothian (0131-552 7171)

In Inverteith Row, a mile north of city centre. Open daily, except December 25 and January 1, 10am-ipm to end of February; 10am-6pm in March, April, September, October: 10am-8pm in May to August. Entrance: free (voluntary contribution).

Scotland has produced generations of pioneering gardeners and so it is no surprise that Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden is one of the best in Britain. If there is an example of how a botanic garden should be more than just a collection of plants, it is here. Established in 1670, the garden has few rivals, but it was the move in 1820 that added the quality of the present position. There are sweeping views south to Edinburgh and north to the Scottish hills. Some legendary names from Scottish gardening history trained here, but perhaps more than most this is a botanic garden that combines research, rarity and quality with a

genuine appeal even to a beginner. Demonstration gardens illustrate what can be done at home and there is no better place to study the changing seasons. Trees and shrubs provide the winter highlights. In a garden whose To acres present such an army of plants, a first visit in winter offers a relatively simple picture that will only encourage you to return for richer feasts in spring and summer.

Longleat, Warminster, Wiltshire (01985 841400)

On A362, three miles southwest of Warminster. Open daily, except December 25, 10am-lpm to March 16, then 10am-6pm to November 3. Entrance: £2, children 50p.

Longlear should be visited in winter. The formal garden to the south of the house was redesigned by Russell Page for the father of the present Marquess of Bath. The idea was to simplify a planting regime that had relied on 40,000 annual plants twice a year. Page's creation of clipped and yew hedges, lime walks and formal water leading to Wyarville's 18thcentury orangery needs no flowers to enhance its formal elegance, especially as it is so wellmatched to the architecture of this Renaissance masterpiece. Ever since it was built by Sir John Thymne, the great house has been the locus of ambitious gardens, some of which have come



Pond at Edinburgh Botanic Garden

and gone. But winter can also be the season to appreciate the house. The view from the beech woods along the ridge known as Heaven's Gate demonstrates Capability Brown's vision and skill in making the most of the natural setting. On a clear, frosty morning it is a never-to-beforgotten experience, so arrive early.

■ Hackfall Wood, Greweithorpe, North Yorkshire

Off A6106 Ripon to Masham, six miles northwest of Ripon. Open daily all year, dawn to dusk. Entrance: free.

There are few more fascinating examples of gardening from one generation to another than looking at Hackfall Wood, created by William Aislabie after his father. John, had made Studley Royal, the landscape masterpiece. By William's time the mood had moved on and he created landscape gardening that is rugged.

picturesque and exciting.

A winter visit adds a seasonal quality to the 112 acres of woodland in a spectacular 350ft gorge of the River Une — and encourages walking. From its creation the garden became renowned - Turner even painted it. But in recent decades it fell into decay until rescued by local admirers who have carried out a spirited

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

WEEKENLI TIPS

Put an open-ended clocke over clumps of Christmas ruses (Helleborus niger) to produce clean flowers with no soil splasher for picking. Pick flowers of Iris laxica and unquicularis. Mapply ar oil wash to dormant fruit trees and bushes, to kill the eggs of next year's generations of aphids, sucker and scale insects.

Keep indoor azaleas (Azalea indica varieties) in a cool room, especially at night (IOC is ideal), for a long display of flowers.

Prune apples and pears (but not cherries and plums), and take any rotten, munimified truits off the trees.

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es of an old cider m





t is not a question of whether or not to take it so much as where to do it. Once, in the garden of a well-known garden designer. I leant against a fine, 5it high terracotta urn that stood on the terrace outside his drawing room. It, and I, thudded to the ground, shattering illusions as it went - if may have looked the part but it was made of fibreglass and weighed very little. It was a clever deception, but had been put in a place where it was going to be discovered too easily.

Lookalike bronze and terracotta pots have been perfected to such a degree that they are almost impossible to tell from the real thing—unless you wuch them. The best idea is to use them where they are not likely to be brushed or leant against. To complete the deception, a real terracotta pot should be placed where it will be touched.

It is always best to use big pots as they make dramatic features, even in small gardens. Unfortunately, games of scale are not played nearly enough in British gardens. Or the pots could be planted with trees — anything smaller will only

I understand that the garden at Highgrove has been supplied with pots from the Old Bell Pottery, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, which has a selection of about 3,000, some of them sculpted or thrown on site by the owner/potter Keith Broley. Others on sale have been chosen from big and small suppliers in Britain and Europe, and all are well displayed in Mr Broley's garden of pots and toplary. Prices range from 22p for a standard flowerpot (5in high) to £450 for a 4ft 7in high decorated terracotta.

The company Spanish Pots imports hand-coiled tinajas, which were originally used for storing grain, wine or oil. The largest, 13ft high, costs £3,000 and is said to be one of the largest clay pots in the world. A pot just under 4ft high in the same style costs £475.

Their weathered looks and pleasing egg-shaped forms made a stunning display at this year's Hampton Court Flower Show. They would look beat as garden ornaments rather than planters what brave soul is going to drill drainage holes in a £3,000 por?

The tinajas are said to be frost

Terracotta pots — and realistic fakes make dramatic features and are best bought in winter, says Jane Owen



Keith Broley at work on a ceremaic jar at his pottery in Lechlade

POTTED HISTORY

■ S&B Evans, 7a Ezra Street London E2 7RH (0171-729 6635 for opening times and catalogue).

Spanish Pots, Casa La Venteta 67. Aguas de Busot, 03569

■ Capital Garden Products, Gibbs Reed Barn, Pashley Road, Tilebarst, East Sussex TN5 7HE (01580 201092 for a brochure).

The Old Bell Pottery, High Street, Lechlade (01367 252608 for

Potentials. (0171-722 7237 for opening times).

M. Pauw, 606 King's Road, London SW6 2DX (0171-731 4022 for

on board.

the garden before planting.

Some fake pots from the Conti-

nent are made with built-in wheels,

similar to those on beds or arm-

chairs, It is a great idea which more

manufacturers will no doubt take

moulded to look like antique urns

and vases, but supplies are erraric

so if you find a beautiful piece don't

hesitate to buy. Capital Garden

Products in East Sussex makes fake Cretan oil jars (3ft high, £428) and

There is some stumming take Italian terracotta on the market,

beautiful but cracked "frost proof" can experiment with positions in pots that I cannot afford to replace, am wary of all such claims.

But fake pots are almost always truly frost and heat proof — and they are relatively easy to move around. A 5st high take terracotta pot, for instance, weighs about 60kg, whereas the gemuine article would weigh about L2 tonnes.

It is a good idea to buy a pot in the winter, particularly if you are planning to plant in them, because, once planted, they are almost impossible to move without heavy machinery. If you buy pots now you

Alicante, Spain (00 34 656 90231).

opening times and brochure).

Beehive jars (26 8in high, £346) which, like any of these large containers, are eyecatching as well as handy planters. But remember that they have to have drainage holes drilled in the bottom if they are to be used as planters. The

same designs come in "bronzage"

— resin bunded with bronze which gives a convincing verdigris finish.

The company's pièce de résistance is a 135cm Oak Leaf vase, moulded to the firms care design. moulded to the firm's own design and launched at this year's Chelses Flower Show. A frieze of oak leaves and acorn tops a fish-scale pattern on the rest of the pot. It costs £980.

Lhose who want a more modest scale should visit a garden market, such as the one in Brick Lane, east London, where, on Sundays, some of the stalls stock real terracotta pots. S&B Evans & Sons in Ezra Street, near Brick Lane, has a wide stock at this time of year, from terracotta and glazed pots and troughs to wall-mounted and strawberry pots.

Should you really want to scare away the greenfly, look out for a por made by Potentials. The company paints ordinary flowerpots with a Michael Angelo, houndstooth check or a picture of great aunt Emily - any image can be applied. Prices range from £7.50 for a 212 in pot to £300 for one loin high.

But if you are looking for garden products made from lead, you may find a few problems. A lot of the fake lead garden ornaments available are not convincing; it is something to do with the effects of weathering. A nd remember, real lead is not only heavy but tempting to thieves. Capital Garden Products has a Swag window box (3ft 6in long by 8in wide by 8in high for £103) and an Adam window box (11in by 60in by 8½ in high for £143), which look real.

But if you have the money - and the muscle — M. Pauw in the King's Road, west London, specialises in real lead. Georgianstyle planters, 10in high and weighing three stone, costing £125. Or there are 195 in high tanks weigh-ing 16 stone which cost £295.

CORRECTION THE Howitt and Mowitt 3D Landscape V.2 Deluxe CD-Rom (Weekend, December 7) costs £49.95, not £39.95 as stated.



S&B Evans & Sons in east London stocks terracotta and glazed pots, troughs and strawberry pots

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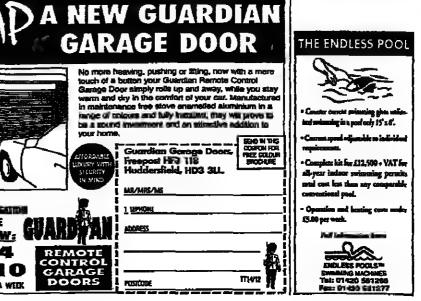
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The supergrass you needn't worry about

Specialist grasses not only look good,

they need very little maintenance

and water, as Jane Owen discovers

ome names of grasses evoke pleasure - how about Quaking Grass or Doddering Dillies (Briza media) which grows to about 18in of slender green stalk with seed heads that tremble in the slightest

Or how about some African Love Grass (Eragrostis curvula) - those thin green arches with grey seed — or the neat little nobs of Sea Urchin (Festuca glauca Seeigel). Or then there's the old favourite, Foxtail barley or grass (Hordeum jubatum), whose sturdy bearded seed heads nod whitey-pink and green in flower arrangements.

Apart from pampas grass, whose white seed heads over cruel sharpedged leaves can still be seen pluning above Victorian gardens, the use of specialist grass is relatively new to British gardens. Their growing vogue is due in part to the popularity of Roger Grounds's classic book Ornamental Grasses (published in 1979 by the Hardy Plant Society, ISBN 0 747 01219 9, but now out of print) and the specialist nursery which he and his wife. Diana Grenfell. started in Humpshire ten years ago. Mr Grounds's updated book on ornamental grasses will be published in spring 1998.

Grosses are all the more appealing because once established, most of them take little maintenance or water, a boon in our parched

Today, a handful of British nurseries specialise in grasses, including Hoecroft Plants in Norfolk, Brian and Heather Hilley in Surrey and Birchdale Plants in Dorset (see right).

Mr Grounds's new book he is working on describes how grasses can be hest used. His research has taken him to Germany and America, where grass gardening is well established. It is also popular in Japan, a fact reflected in the names of many of the grasses creeping into British gardens: Japanese blood grass, Miscanthus sinesis 'Yakushima Dwarf ur 'Nippon'

In Japan, grasses are used alongside moss and stone to give a cool architectural effect. I have also seen simple vet dramatic massed plantings which give the impression of a running stream, but you are best advised to train as a Shinto priest



Terry and Peta Bishop, Birchdale Plants, Bournemouth

■ Hoecroft Plants, Holt Road, Wood Norton, Dereham, Norfoli NR20 5BL (01362 684206).

Brian and Heather Hiley. 23 Little Woodcote Estate, Telegraph Track, Wallington, Surrey SM5 IAU (0181-647 9679).

M Roger Grounds. Apple Court Nursery. Hordle. Lymington, Hants SO41 0HU (01590 642130).

for a few years before attempting anything like that in Britain, we tend to go for complex plantings, weaving grasses into mixed bor-ders. The tall, elegant arching grasses - like most Miscanthus make punctuation marks, while the short, clump forming varieties, like many of the Carex (strictly speaking these are sedges rather than grasses) can make a good edging.

Scree gardens have come to mean almost any stone or shingle area which is planted with grasses and the stark, geometric shapes of phormiums and cordylines.

The final effect is hot and Mediterranean, and has the added attraction of needing very little maintenance. It is hardly surprising that this garden style has become so popular in recent years that some local councils — such as Christchurch - have built them on



Squirreltail grass (H. jubatum)

SHOPAROUND



Terry Bishop, who went into business selling grasses after he lost his job, now has a thriving mail-order company. He won a silver gilt medal at Chelsea this year

Two years ago Terry Bishop, then 50, lost his job as a head gardener. This summer he won his third silver gilt medal from the Royal Horticultural Society for his display of grasses, and a week later he was granted planning permission for two polytunnels on a third of an acre on which to grow his grasses and run Birchdale Plants, a mailorder company. It has not been - last winter Mr Bishop faced a spell on the dole.

He became interested in grasses while he was a head gardener. He went to shows and to other gardens but couldn't find the range of grasses he wanted until he met the grass specialist Roger Grounds. At Mr Bishop's 30ft by 20ft garden in Dorset (now run by his wife Peta), he built up a modest collection of 20 grasses. As the roasting summer continued, his self-sufficient grasses almost thrived while his lawn, like many others, went an unsightly brown.

When Mr Bishop was made redundant, his mother-in law suggested he use some of her spare land outside Bournemouth a horse paddock - to try to make a living. And so he began his company selling grasses and sedges

To get his name on the map, Mr Bishop did eight shows nationwide in the first year — a gruelling business even for an established nursery. He reckoned, correctly. that he needed to put in the hard

slog to win recognition. The investment paid off and, at Chelsea this year, his display won a silver gilt medal — not bad for a beginner. Gradually his client list grew with the help of his simple catalogue which lists grasses according to their uses and where they thrive - grasses for wet, damp and boggy soil, grasses that give good ground cover and so an. In late autumn, Mr Bishop

recommends Stipa arundinacea. "It goes from green to yellow and red, and it looks beautiful when the sun shines through it," he says. In late summer, clouds of tiny brown flowers appear. It will grow in almost any soil, although

it prefers slight shade. The grass that he is most excited about is Pennisecum 'Burgundy Blaze' which has yet to find its way into the catalogues. It is a spectac-ular plant that grows to about 2ft high. It has an arching mass of dark bronze leaves and bronze and yellow seed heads so softlooking that it is tempting to reach out and stroke them.

SCREE GARDEN

laying black polythene or any weed-suppressing membrane such as Plantes, Grasses are pretty tolerant but, if necessary, prepure the soil before the membrane goes down.

Add the scree or shingle to about 2in thick. Local materials look best so go to the garden centre, nursery or builders merchant.

■ Before piercing the membrane in order to plant, arrange the grasses still in pots. Once you see things in position you may want to change.

Once established, many grasses need little or no watering and only a oulck cut with shears in spring.





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represents outstanding value! The coins are in sparkling MINT condition, each coin is 22,05mm in diameter and they weigh 7.98grams of 22 carat gold. They were all exquisitely minted at the Royal Muntand what's more, as far as I know, pone of these have ever come into contact with

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Green.



It looks like a Georgian doll's house from the outside, but the inside of Ham Court dates back to late medieval times

Layers of history in the grand manor

he view from Ham Court is memorable. Look out from a top-floor bedroom window — with slightly bended knees — and the clipped lawn, topiary and box trees give way to a gravel drive, paddock and a broad view.

"It's stonning," says Penny Stones who, with husband Nic and three children, has lived at the fivebedroom Elizabethan house in Charlton Kings outside Chelten-ham for Il years. On a sunny day you can see the whole escarpment from Cleeve Hill right round to

At night the front looks like a doll's house when all the lights are on. You feel you could open it up and peer in.

Step inside the massive handsome frontage and walk the three floors and you begin to feel like a giant in a slightly shrunken house. But there is nothing twee about Ham. The beams are low and press down overhead. The façade is Georgian but the proportions are late medieval: an age when door frames came small and where men fought with muskets in honour of the king. The scent of history seems to hang from the woodwork. In fact, Ham Court's impressive

past adds to its intrigue. The Stones were living in Cheltenham when they bought Ham Court in 1985. Mrs Stones's family are from the Regency spa town and Mr Stones passed the property each day. "We saw an advertise-ment in the Gloucestershire Echo." says Mr Stones, a solicitor in .
) Cheltenham.

"The children were small and we needed something bigger. It had a swimming pool, a tennis court and a 450-year-old barn — all the things we didn't expect so close to Chelter-

HOUSE THE WEEK

Ham Court, Charlton Kings. Gloucestershire .

● Price: £750,000

• Setting: Cheltenham is two miles away, Heathrow one hour, by car

 Shopping: House of Fraser at Cavendish House in Cheltenham; fashion from the Montpellier district; -jewellery at Martin &

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ham. It was ideal. It was ten minutes from the office so we bought it in 72 hours."

The family's mark on Ham Court relates to the age of Elizabeth II. Their conversion of an Elizabethan post-and-beam cattle shed won local awards and would make a wonderful office or studio.

"Every century has added to the house — from Regency mahogany banisters to the Victorian green-house at the back," Mr Stones says. The Cheitenham family kept a home there after 1327 and elevated

Ham in status to a sub-manor. The estate was granted to Robert Goodrich in 1564, and in 1574 Thomas Packer paid £400 for the property. It was described as the "Farme of



Penny Stones in the beamed guest bedroom where Prince Rupert stayed during the Civil War

. It is believed the main timber-framed building — which survives today as the body of Ham Court was built by one of the Packer sons, Arthur or Alexander, at the turn of the l6th century. Forty years later Ham Court provided fodder for

Royalist troops during the Civil

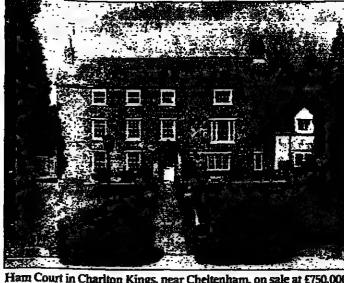
"Prince Rupert, a Cavalier, slept a night here before doing battle

against the Roundheads under Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Tewkesbury," Mr Stones says, referring to the beamed guest

There was a lot of Civil War fighting here but I don't think the stay did Prince Rupert much good." An inventory dated July 6, 1685, following Alexander Packer's death, shows the life of 17th-century

Ham Court. Mr Packer owned a sword and guns with their belts and held £25 in his purse — an impressive amount for the day.

Bacon hung in the kitchen chim-ney, parlour tables were draped in carpet while the parlour chamber had calico hangings, a tick tester bed, twiggen chair, six fashionable red cushions, a looking-glass and



Ham Court in Charlton Kings, near Cheltenham, on sale at £750,000

Ham Court was a staging post on the road to London. The house faced the coach road and was (and is) beautifully timbered. After 1734, however, and its purchase by the trustees of Sir William Dodwell, a facade of Flemish brick was added to the building's far side. The back of Ham Court became its front, opening up a vista to Leckhampton Hill and the Corswolds, which remains to this day.

Grade II house, it has seven acres of ground and gardens and is on the village edge at Charlton Kings. There are people around which is good for security and yet it is totally rural. It is very civilised and it will remain that way," Mr Stones says. The land leading up to the house is designated an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Now their children are grown

up, the Stones are selling for £750,000 and are looking for something smaller in Cheltenham. "Penny is rattling around here on her own and I now travel a lot to Los Angeles and New York," says Mr Stones, who is also a director of Wolverhampton Wanderers foot-ball club and travels to all the home

The house's past has been a privilege, not a responsibility," Mrs Stones says. "We feel the layers and layers of families that have lived here. We've had our tenure and left our mark but we feel we were very much caretakers rather than its

We would love another family to take over and enjoy it as a marvellous family home."

ALEX WIJERATNE Agent: Knight Frank, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (01285 659771).

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. PROPERTY .. NEWS

■ NEW homes are out-performing old, says Hamptons, houses rising by 13.6 per cent and new flats by 17.7 per cent between the second quarters of 1995 and 1996. Old terraced houses rose by 1.5 per cent; old flats by 4.8 per cent.

THE number of British people buying country houses, compared with overseas purchasers, has in-creased by more than 40 per cent since 1992, Knight Frank says. This year, 78 per cent of purchases of houses over £750,000 were by British buyers, with an increasing number of foreign buyers coming from eastern Europe.

RESIDENTS in the Clareville Grove area, London SW4, are relieved that the Palestinian Liberation Organ-isation HQ has been sold (for close to the £950,000 asking price). "When the PLO were there it was virtually impossible to sell anything in the area," says Ed Mead, of Douglas & Gordon.

ONLY 12 per cent of people looking for country properties have sold their houses, Cluttons says. It found that 30 per cent of people looking had not put their own houses on the market, and 12 per cent of would-be country house buyers were in rented accommodation as a stop-gap.

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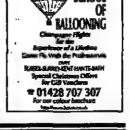
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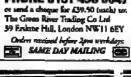


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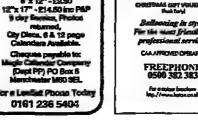
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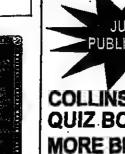
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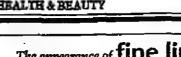
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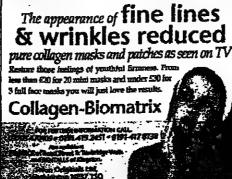
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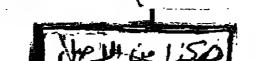
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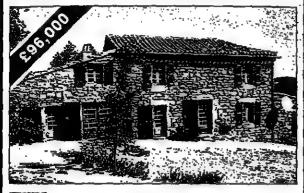


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Thatched homes hit the root

t took Stephen Hinton-Lever just an hour to look over a partially built house and offer to buy it. What convinced him was not the design but the developer's

plans for a thatched roof. He and his family - Janette, his wife, and children Sophie, James and Bethany - moved into their new home at Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, five months ago, and the enthusiasm remains.

The house has the wonderful character of an old place with all the amenities of a new one," he says, "It's the most beautiful modern home I've seen for a long time. The thatch makes it look so different

The Hinton-Levers have oined the ranks of up to 60.000 householders thatched homes in Britain. most of them in the southern half of the country. About 50,000 are listed.

Next month the National Society of Thatched Property Owners will be relaunched by the National Society of Master Thatchers (NSMT), using a 30,000-name database run by the insurers CGA Direct.

The society aims to give householders news and advice about salety, planning regulations, insurance, maintenance and vermin control. Membership, at £25 a year, "will provide a collective voice for the owners of thatched property which is long overdue". says Christopher White, the

chairman of NSMT. The thatching world is a-buzz at the moment. Two years of research commissioned by English Heritage into the history of thatch and thatching in the 19th and 20th centuries should be finished by Christmas. After consultation next year, English Heritage is planning to issue general guidance on best thatching practice, taking into account local traditions where they still

Even people's biggest fear about living in thatched houses — the threat of fire - is being assuaged. A few weeks ago, a heat sensor called Thatchguard was launched by CGA Direct, the result of research into fire and thatch at RHM Technology in Buckinghamshire.

The heat sensor, set inside an aluminium probe and fixed to each face of the chimney, activates an alarm in the house and at a 24-hour monitoring station when the temperature around the chimney reaches

Homes, old or new, with a thatched roof are as popular as ever and there are now moves to make them even safer to live in and easier to maintain



Stephen and Janette Hinton-Lever, with their family, outside their brand new thatched home in Buckinghamshire

monitoring station will telephone the householders, or a keyholder if they are out. If there is still no reply the fire

brigade will be called.
The first Thatchguard will be installed this month at a cottage owned by the National Trust on the Kingston Lacy and Corie Castle estate in Dorset. "The sensor's alarm warns owners to put out their domestic fire and call in the experts to look at the chimney," says Marjorie Sanders, the research project leader at RHM Technology who believes that Thatchguard will enable thatch to be used with confidence on many more new buildings in the future. The equipment will cost about £250, plus a £180 installation fee.

ionitoring will cost £15 a month. "Ninety per cent of thatch fires are caused by heat transfer through the chimney's brickwork, which on most listed thatched buildings is single brick," Mrs Sanders says, "Sparks from the chimney are not a common

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ferred through the brickwork into the thatch reaches about 225C, the first stages of char will occur. If this is ined, combustion can occur."

ichard Playle: a director of OGA Direct, says there has been growing concern at the increase in fires at thatched properties over the past three or four. years - some caused by the installation of solid fuel stoves in old hearths without lining the flue properly. The stoves generate much more heat than an open fire and temperatures can reach 600C. Chimneys should be lined by an expert and swept at least twice a year.

The Hinton-Levers' new home has lined chimney but all there is between the roof timbers and the reed thatching is roofing felt. However, samples of the reed, brick and tiles used in the building were sent to planners by the builders, Orchard Gate Developments, "As is normal,

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before construction. This was a condition of planning consent," says David Raeside, the company's man-

aging director.
This is Orchard Gate Developments' first thatched property. "It was a whim of an idea because we wanted to do something different, but there was another thatched property nearby so it's not completely on its own. Mr Raeside savs.

The Hinton-Levers: house measures nearly 3,500 square feet and has five bedrooms, including two with en suite bathrooms, and three reception rooms. It cost about £500,000. The cost of building insurance is £440 a year.

Christopher White, a director of Cotswold and Chiltern Master Thatchers and chairman of the National Society of Master Thatchers, which represents about 100 thatching companies, says it took a team of six about six weeks to thatch the property. He reckons that the reed, which is laid to a depth of 12in,

should last 60 years, but that the sedge on the roof ridge will probably need some attention after about 15 years. Wire netting prevents squirrels burrowing into the reed.

Mr White is a third-generation thatcher and has worked at the craft for 25 years. He believes thatching gives "added value" to a property and provides virtually unequalled insulation, making the buildings warm in winter and cool

Brian Higgs, the property editor of Thatched Living, a CGA Direct publication, and a director of In-the-Sticks, a property newspaper for country lovers, says: "I know of two people recently who have opted for putting a thatch roof on a house rather than slate or tiles. Thatched properties have

enduring appeal."

Among the thatched houses for sale is a Grade II listed three-bedroom cottage at Shepreth, eight miles from Cambridge, at £177,000, through the Cambridge office of Bidwells, whose Norwich office has a four-bedroom thatched house, with twobathrooms, at Wroxham, Nor-folk, at £198,500.

The firm's office at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, has a Grade II listed timber-framed cottage with four bedrooms at Dalham, six miles from Newmarket, for £165,000. In Devon, Rendells of

Tomes has a four-bedroom thatched longhouse, with detached stone cottage and detached barn, situated in more than four acres near Poundsgate, which is within the Dartmoor National Park. The price is £325,000.

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he roo The new artisans revive old glories

The trend in restoring period houses accurately has renewed the need for craftsmen

3.3 FUNTS STORYL DECEMBER

o faithfully has Jonathan Ellis restored his Edwardian house that living there is like living on a period film set. The double-fronted house in Muswell Hill, north London, was dilapidated and forlorn when he first viewed it four years ago. "But the minute I walked in I wanted it," says the 29-year-old actor. "It was such a shame to let such a beautiful house go to waste,

The builder erected the house for himself in about 1905, and it's the largest in the street," he says. "But it was later turned into flats and became a wreck. I wanted to restore it."

Such desire for restoration has become so popular that in the past ten years there has been a significant revival of old skills associated with the work which had all but

died out by the 1970s. The new artisans have had to become more exacting to satisfy clients such as Mr Ellis, who has assiduously researched the era of his house to make sure he got it right. He has had floors sanded and varnished, fireplaces cleaned, special paint effects applied to woodwork and walls, dado rails and high skirning boards replaced.

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--: 14N De

The cornice and geometric ceiling plasterwork in the drawing room was recreated in the master bedroom, stained glass in the front door was copied for a glazed bathroom door, spindles from the stair banisters were copied for a new staircase when he converted the loft into two bedrooms.

"It's all very theatrical," says Mr Ellis, who bought the house at "a bargain price and has spent £90,000 on it. Now he is selling the house, which has three reception rooms and bedrooms, through Foxton's at £395,000.

"I researched what loft windows would have been used then and had dormers installed. Someone gave me an original photo of the house's front and I recreated the



Jonathan Ellis and the restored Edwardian house he hopes to sell for £395,000. Right: the master bedroom room has cornices and geometric plasterwork. Below: the dining room, with curtains from an original design

fence and gate to look exactly the same as it did 100 years ago. For the central heating I bought eight old radiators for 5100 and had them in the skilled labour they need. pipes to restorers of carpets to helping people find the skilled labour they need.

Even finding the correct paint is During rewiring we used reproof interest to period homeowners. duction light fittings and authentic light switches. For the bathroom I Lisa Oestreicher, an architectural paint analyst, can discern the evolution of decoration within a bought a Victorian claw-footed bath that I then had re-enamelled, room. "Modern paints are much thicker than old ones, which did not and original taps from a guy who re-plated them. For the kitchen I have a long shelf life. Some firms bought an original Victorian stove now make up distempers to order, from a salvage yard."
People like Mr Ellis now have and limewash is popular, so people can get the exact colour they want."

more resources than ever to call on. The Victorian Society sells helpful leaflets on how to be faithful to ld skills need to be learnt, and courses are original Victorian and Edwardian proliferating. Cement is inappropriate for repair-ing historic buildings, because it does not breathe, and traps water designs: A company called Salvo has a list (£5.75 per county) of dealers selling reclaimed building materials and architectural anin brick or stone. The Lime Centre tiques. Cathedral Communications at Morestead, near Winchester, produces a Building Conservation Directory, edited by Jonathan Tay-Hampshire, offers practical courses on building and repairing lor, a former conservation officer cob walling and preparing lime render, making coloured lime washes, making lime putty and for Kensington and Chelses. The directory lists 850 specialists, from

ing the glass into a sheet. The glass can be identified in window panes by the broken lines in the reflection Minton Hollins, the special products department of H & R Johnson Tiles of Stoke-on-Trent, Stafford-

> since 1793, has had such a surge of interest that it has been recruiting more staff this year for its tile department, which makes reproduction coloured floor tiles and ceramic wall and fireplace tiles. A geometric tiled floor costs about £35 per square metre but should last 100 years. Bespoke designs can be worked out with

shire, which has been making tiles

cutting down the side and flatten-

specialists, or the company will suggest a pattern to suit the period of a property.

Mr Ellis's tapering, 70ft-long garden was landscaped to period designs by Janet Macpherson of Tooting, south London. She laid a

patio of handmade bricks in a

herringbone pattern, made a for-

mal lawn surrounded by a low box

hedge, in turn surrounded by a gravel path, and planted appropriate plants.

Mr Ellis said he is selling the house because he wants to find another wreck to restore to its former glory. The whole atmo-sphere of the house changed once it was completed. It's almost as if the house is grateful," he said. "It's worth it when people come round and say the house is gorgeous. I'm house-hunting in Islington at the moment: I'd like to try a Georgian

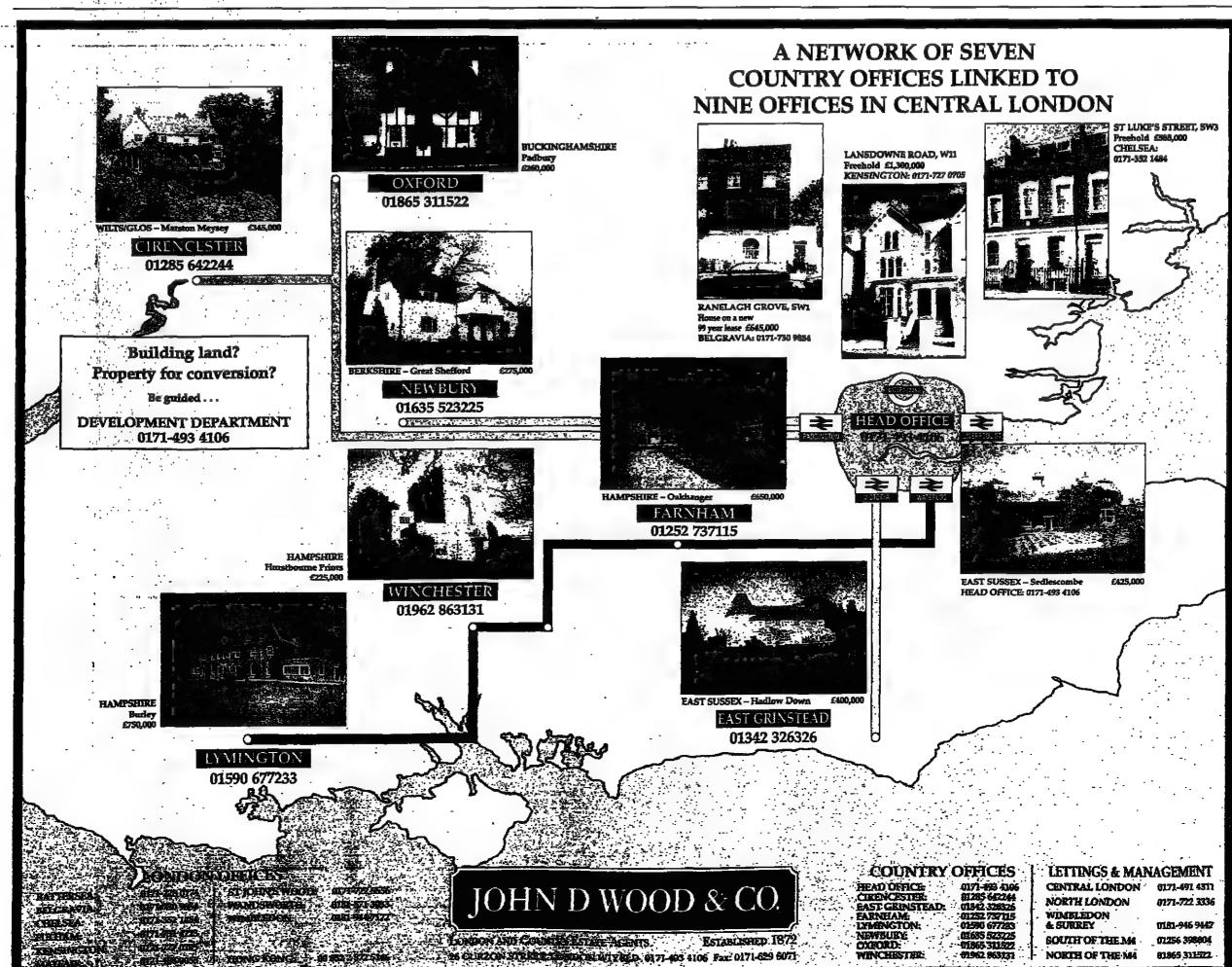
CHRISTINE WEBB ◆ For a copy of Cathedral

 Foxtons, 0171 433 6600. Victorian Society, 0181-994 1019. Salvo, 01668 216494. Lisa Oestreicher. 01747 871717. Lime Centre. 01962 713636. fax 01962 715350. Harriey Wood. 0191-567 2506. Minton Hollins, 01782 524076. Janet Macpherson.

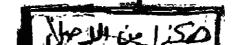


mortar. The centre was started eight years ago by Robert Bennett, who says there has been such demand for his one-day courses that he has had to add more to his programme of 25 this year. House restoration has given the

kiss of life to traditional businesses. The firm Hartley Wood, of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, has been making cylinder glass for more than 100 years. The process involves blowing glass, swinging the bubble to form a cylinder, then









Choristers at King's College, Cambridge, rehearse for the Christmas Eve service, Thomas Harries, left, Billy Hanrahan, Nicholas Spiers and Edward Warwick, all 12, and Edward Saklatvala, 13, one of whom will be chosen to sing solo

come, all ye carol singers

ANGLICAN

ENGLAND

Birmingham Cathedral (0121-236 4333): Dec 16: 12.30pm, Post Office Carol Service; 7.15pm, West Midlands Police Carol Service; Dec 18: candlelit festival of nine lessons 11.45am, Railway Mission Carol and carols. Service: 7.30pm, City Technology College Carol Service; Dec 20: 10.15am, Selly Oak School Carol Service; Dec 21: 10.30am & 11.15am, "Birthday in Bethlehem" - a children's puppet nativity presentation; 12.30pm, Carols For All; Dec 23: 12.30pm. Music and readings

festival of nine lessons & carols. Bristol Cathedral (0117-9264 879): Dec 17 & 18: 7.30pm, Carols and Christmas music with Bristol Cathedral Special Choir; Dec 24: 3.30pm, service of nine lessons and

for Christmas, Dec 24: 5.30pm.

Canterbury Cathedral (01227 762 862): Dec 24: 3pm, nine lessons and carols.

Carlisle Cathedral (01228 48151): tomorrow: 3.30pm, Carol Service; Dec 16: 7.30pm, Trinity School Carol Service; Dec 18: 7.30pm, King's Own Royal Border Regi-ment Carol Service; Dec 22: 3.30pm, festival of nine lessons & carols; Dec 24: 3pm, Crib Service; 6.30pm, Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

Chelmsford Cathedral (01245 263660): Dec 17: 7.30pm, Rainsford School carol service; Dec 19: 2pm, Chelmsford Cathedral School Carol Service: Dec 20: 2pm, County High School Carol Service; Dec 21: 7.30pm, Chelmsford Singers Concert; Dec 24: 4pm, crib service; opm, festival of nine lessons & carols by candlelight.

Chester Cathedrai (01244 324756): today: 6.30pm, Christingle Service; Dec 18: 10.45am, Queen's School carol service: Dec 19: 10.45am. King's School carol service; Dec 20: 3pm, County Council carol service: Dec 22: 6.30pm, Nave Choir carol service: Dec 24: 3.30pm, Cathedral carul service, 5.15pm, children's

Chichester Cathedral (01243 782595): Dec 22 & 23: 6pm, Cathedral carol service; Dec 24: 4.15pm. Children's service with blessing of crib; 10.45pm. vigil of music and

Coventry Cathedral (01203 227597): today: 7.30pm, A Ceremony of Carols by Britten (tickets); Dec 21: 3pm, family carols; Dec 24: 3.30pm. The Journey into Bethle-hem: 7pm, carol service, The Form of A Servant.

Durham Cathedral (0191-386 4266): today: 2.30pm, Mencap carol service; Dec 17: 7pm. HM Prison staff carol service; Dec 22: 4pm: Blessing of the crib and lighting of the Christmas tree; 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; Dec 24: 3pm. festival of nine lessons and carols.

Ely Cathedral (01353 667735): Dec 23: 5.30pm, Britten's A Ceremony of Carols: Dec 24: 6.30pm procession with carols and blessing of the

Guildford Cathedral (01483 565287): Dec 21: 7.30pm, Cathedral Choir Christmas concert (tickets): Dec 24: 4pm, Children's Christmas service.

Hereford Cathedral (01432 359 880): Dec 21: 12 noon, Carols for shoppers; Dec 23: 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Leicester Cathedral (01162 625294): tomorrow: 2.45pm, Bach Choir Concert: Dec 16: 7.30pm, Loros carol concert; Dec 17: 7.30pm, Old Leicestrians's carol service: Dec 18: 7.30pm, Judgemeadow Community College Concert: Dec 19: 7.30pm, Leicestershire Art Students concert: Dec 21: 5pm. Christingle service; Dec 22: 4pm, carol service; Dec 24: 4pm,

Lichfield Cathedral (01543 250300): Dec 17: 7.30pm, King Edward VI School carol service: Dec 18: 7.30pm, Lichfield Cathedral School carol service; Dec 19: Spm, Lichfield Cathedral Special with Cannock Sai Army Band carol concert; Dec 2i: 7.30pm, Christmas festival of handbells; Dec 24: 6.30pm. family crib service with Cathedral Choristers; Dec 26: 3.30pm, The Cathedral carol service.

Lincoin Cathedral (01522 544544): tomorrow: 7.30pm, BBC Radio Lincolnshire/LSG carol service: Dec 22: 2pm, carol service; Dec 24: 4pm, carol service.

Liverpool Cathedral (0151-709 6271): tomorrow: 3pm, Blessing of the crib and lighting of the Christ-mas tree; Dec 21: 3pm, annual Christmas recital; Dec 22: 3pm. holly bough carols; Dec 24: 3pm, carols for Christmas Eve.

Manchester Cathedral (0161-833 2220): Dec 14: 7.30pm, family carols (tickets): Dec 17: Chetham's lunchtime concert: Dec 18: 7.30pm. Trinity High School carol concert; Dec 19: 7.30pm, Chetham's School of Music carol concert; Dec 21: 7.30pm, carols for all with Cantata Choir (tickets); Dec 22: 7.30pm. Messiah with Cantata Choir (tickets); Dec 23: 7.30pm, Nine lessons and carols; Dec 24: 12 noon, family carols around the tree.

Newcastle Cathedral (0191-232 1939): Dec 17: 5.30pm, Shops & Offices Carols: Dec 18: 6pm, Wil-kinson Maughan Carol Service: Dec 20: 10am, Dame Allan's School carol service; Dec 24: 6pm, Cathedral carol service; 11.30pm. blessing of the crib.

Oxford, Christ Church Cathedral (01865 276155): Dec 23: 7.30pm. service of nine lessons & carols; Dec 24: 3pm, service of nine lessons & carols (tickets -- no charge).

Peterborough Cathedral (01733 62780): Dec 24: 4pm. festival of nine lessons & carols & blessing of the Crib; Spm, carols with the Salvation Army Citadel Band.

Portsmouth Cathedral (01705 823300): Dec 22: 6.30pm, Cathedral carol service: Dec 24: 4pm, children's crib service.

Ripon Cathedral (01765 602072): Dec 15: 5.30pm, Evensong followed by Britten's Ceremony of Carols: Dec 17: 7.30pm, Grammar School carol service; Dec 18: noon, Cathedral Choir School carol service; Dec 22: 5.30pm. nine lessons & carols; Dec 24: Ham, the blessing of the crib; 5.30pm, nine Lessons & carols; Dec 26: 9.45am, Fountains Abbey pilgrimage (leaves Cathedral at 10.30am).

Rochester Cathedral (01634 844023): Dec 20 & 21: 7.30pm, carol service: Dec 23: noon, lunchtime carol service; Dec 24: 3.15pm. blessing of crib.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk (01284 754852): Dec 21: 7pm, carols by candlelight in aid of the Children's Society: Dec 24: 4pm. children's crib service: 7pm, service of nine lessons and carols. Salisbury Cathedral (01722 330914): today: 7.30pm, Musical From Bach to Britten and handbell ringing to Salvation Army bands, a selection of Christmas services across the country

pers (1610); Dec 21: 5.30pm, Christmas nativity play & blessing of the crib; Dec 23: 7pm, Cathedral carol Sheffield Cathedral (0114-275

3434): today: 7.30pm, Grand Brass Band and Sheffield Cathedral Choir concert; Dec 16: 7.30pm, South Yorkshire Federation of Women's Institute carol service; Dec 18: 12.30pm, Department of Education and Employment carol the Cathedral Choir and brass; Dec 19: 7.30pm, Sheffield Oratorio Chorus carols; Dec 21: 7pm, Bolsterstone Male Voice choir concert: Dec 22: 10.30am, sung Eucharist (1662) & preparation of the crib: 4pm. Radio Sheffield carols; Dee 23: 12.30pm, carols galore; 6.30pm, Cole Brothers carols; Dec 24: 7pm, festival of nine lessons & carols.

Southwark Cathedral, London SE1 (0171-407 3708): today: 7pm, Evelina Children's Hospital carol concert (tickets); Dec 17: 12.45pm. 'Come and sing carols"; Dec 22: 3pm. Cathedral carol service.

Truco Cathedral (01872 76782): Dec 24: 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; Dec 29: 3pm, children's carol service with pets. Wakefield Cathedrai (01924 373923): Dec 22: 4pm, nine lessons & carols: Dec 24: 5pm, family crib service with Girl's Choir.

Wells Cathedral (01749 674483): Dec 24: 3.30pm, blessing of the crib; Dec 26: 3pm, Wells Cathedral Choir carol service in the nave. Westminster Abbey: (0171-976) 0983): Dec 22: 6pm, service of essons and carols (St Margaret's): Dec 24: 4pm, festival of seven lessons and carols.

Winchester Cathedral (01962 853137): Dec 21 & 23: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; Dec 24: 3pm, children's service (nave).

Worcester Cathedral 28854): Dec 22: 4pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; Dec 23: 7.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols. York Minster (01904 624426): Dec 19. 20 & 21: 8pm, carols By candlelight (tickets); Dec 24: 4pm. festival of nine lessons and carols. St George's Cathedral, Southwark (0171-928 5256): tomorrow: 4pm, parish carol service.

concert of Christmas Music, St Paul's Cathedral Choir & City of London Sinfonia; Dec 22: 6.30pm, organ recital: La Nativité du Sei-gneur; Dec 23: 1.15pm, Britten's Ceremony of Carols (Cathedral entry charges apply); Dec 24: 4pm. Christmas carol service & blessing of the crib: Dec 26 and 27: 5pm. Christmas music at the crib.

berniers, St. Andrew's Cathedral (01224 640290): Dec 22: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols with cathedral choir.

Edinburgh, St Giles's Cathedral (0131-225 4363): Dec 22: 6pm, nine essons and carols.

Glasgow, St Mary's Cathedral (0141-339 4956): Dec 22: 4.30pm, candlelit nine lessons and carols. Inverness, St Andrew's Cathedral (01463-233 535): Dec 20: 2pm, Bishop Eden's Primary School carol service; Dec 22: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols (cathedral choir and local schools

Oban, St John's Cathedral (0163) 562323): Dec 22: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

N. IRELAND

Armagh, St Patrick's Cathedral (01861 523142): Dec 22: 3.15pm, festival of nine lessons and carols. Belfast Cathedral (01232 328332): Dec 22: 3.30pm, service of nine lessons and carols; Dec 24: 8pm. festival of nine lessons and carols. Enniskillen, St Macartin's Cathedral (01365 322917): (Cathedral closed due to fire - services will be held in cathedral hall): Dec 22: 7pm, festival of nine lessons and

Lisburn Cathedral (01846 662865): Dec 22: 6.30pm, carol service. Londonderry, St Columb's Cathedral (01504 262746): Dec 22: 6pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

WALES

Bangor Cathedral (01248 370693): Dec 19: 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols held by candlelight; Dec St Paul's Cathedral, London (0171- 22: 3.15pm, choral evensong and

the blessing of the crib; 6pm, Welsch carols. Clwyd, \$t Asaph (01745 982245): Dec 24: 7pm, festival of nine

lessons and carols. Dyfed, St David's (01437 720202): Dec 22: 6pm, nine lessons and carols by candlelight.

Llandaff Cathedral (01222 564554): Dec 24: 3.30pm, service of nine lessons and carols; 9.30pm; crib blessing with the cathedral choral society.

Newport Cathedral (St Woolos), Gwent (01633 266708): Dec 24: 3pm, festival of nine lessons and

LONDON CHURCHES

All Saints, Margaret St, WI (0171-636 1788): Dec 19: 12.30pm, lunchtime carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies; Jan 5: 6pm, service of lessons and carols for Epiphany.

All Souls, Langham Place, WI (0171-580 3522): tomorrow: 6.30pm, carols by candlelight; Dec 22: 6.30pm, carols by candlelight. Our Lady of the Assumption, Warwick St, SW19 (0181-946 7692):

Dec 24: 11.30pm, carol service. Chelsea Old Church, SW3 (017)-352 5627): Dec 22: 6pm, service of nine lessons and carols sung by church quartet with handbells. Crown Court Church of Scotland. Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-836 5643): Dec 20: 7.30pm, choir carol concert; Dec 22: 6.30pm, service of

nine lessons and carols. Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Road, SW7 (0171-581 8255): norrow: 5pm and 7.30pm: carols candlelight: Dec 16: 7.30pm, carols by candlelight; Dec 22: 11am. Christingle service.

St Anne and St Agnes (Lutheran). Gresham St. ECZ (0171-606 4986): Dec 15: 7µm. Bach Vespers (Cantata No 36): Dec 24: 7pm, Candlelight St Bartholomew the Great,

Smithfield, ECI (0171-606 5171): Dec22: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols. St Bride's, Fleet Street, EC4 (017)-

353 130I): tomorrow: 6.30pm, ceremony of carols; Dec 17: 6pm, carol singing for printers; Dec 18: 12 noon, Fleet Street carols; Dec 22: 6.30pm, the festival of nine lessons . CHAPELS ROYAL and carols.

St Clement Danes, Strand WC2 (017)-242 8282): Dec 22: Ilam, service of nine lessons and carols in aid of St Christopher's Fellowship. St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, SW1 (0171-584 2321): tomorrow: llam, a vision of Christmas (family service); Dec 22: 5pm, carol service; Dec 24: 11.30pm,

candlelight midnight service. St Etheldreda's, Rhy Place, EC1 (0171-405 1061): Dec 23: 6.30om. carols old & new sung by Choir of St Etheldreda's.

St George's, Hanover Square, Wi-(0171-629 0874): Dec 22: 6pm, carol service with church choir.

St James's, Garlickhythe, EC4 (0171-248 7546): Dec 22: 7pm, Advent carol service with church

St James's, Sussex Gardens, W2 (0171-262 9976): Dec 22: 6pm, candlelit service of lessons and carols (mulled wine and mince pies afterwards); Dec 24: 5.30pm, carols around the crib.

St John's, Stratford, E15 (0181-503 1913): Dec 17: 1.10pm, lunchtime carols; Dec 22: 6.30pm, Christmas carol service.

St Luke's, Cheisea, SW3 (0171-351) 7365): Dec 22: 6.30pm, candlelit carol service with choir and Christ-

St Mark's, Regent's Park Rd. NWI (0171-586 1694): Dec 22: 3.30pm, Christmas carols and lessons. St Margaret's, Westminster, SWI

(0171-976 0983): Dec 16: Westmin-ster City School Carol Service; Dec 17: Ipm. Department of Employment carol service; Dec 22: 6pm. service of lessons and carols.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2 (0171-930 0089): tonight: 7.30pm, Yuletide celebration by candlelight (tickets); Dec 16: 7.30pm, Christ-mas Baroque by candlelight (tick-ets); Dec 18: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; Dec 19 and 20: 7.30pm. Handel's Messiah by candlelight (tickets); Dec 21: 7.30pm, Christmas by candlelight (tickets); Dec 23: 7.30pm, the spirit of Christmas by candlelight (tickets); Dec 24: 6.30pm, the full parish carol service and the blessing of the

St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, W8 (0171-937 5136): Dec 20: ipm, a carol service for the community; Dec 22: 6.30pm, carol service and blessing of the crib; Dec 24: 3pm, special crib service for the children.

St Mary-the-Virgin, Primrose Hill, NW3 (0171-722 3238): Dec 22: opm, candlelit carol service with church choir, St Marylebone, Marylebone

Road. WI (0171-935 7315): Dec 22: 6.30pm. festival of nine lessons and carols by candlelight St Paul's, Wilton Place, SWI (0171-235 3460): Dec 19: 7.30pm, carol

service by candlelight. St Peter's, Eaton Square, SWI (0171-235 4482): Dec 22: 6.30pm, Christmas carol service, Dec 24: 5pm, children's crib service and

Wesley's Chapel, City Road, EC2 (0171-253 2262): Dec 19: 12.45pm, carol service with Salvation Army Band in aid of the Marie Curie Foundation_

Westminster Central Hall (Methodist), SWI (0171-222 8010): tomorrow: 2.30pm and 6.30pm, Christmas carol concert sung by London Emanuel Choir (for tickets call 01737 350637).

Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, HM Tower of London (0171-709 0765): Dec 22: liam, nine essons and cards

Wigeor

Chapel Royal, St James's Palace (0171-930 3007): Dec 15: 11.15am, CETDÌ SETVICE.

Palace (0181-977 2762): Dec 22: 3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols (admission by chapel pass

Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, W1 (0171-499 1684): Dec 24:

Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, WC2 (0171-836 7221): Dec 22: llam, chapel carol service.

Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, SWI (0171-414 3229): Dec 15: llam & 6pm, parish carol service; Dec 24: 11.15pm, carols at the

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ENGLAND

Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedrai (0121-236 | 2251): Dec 20: 7.30pm, carol service, followed by punch and mince pies.

Liverpool, Christ the King Cathedral (0151-709 3991): Dec 22: 5pm. festival Advent service and candle light procession.

Plymouth Cathedral (01752-662 537): Dec 29: 3pm, Cathedral Christmas carol service. Westminster Cathedral (0171-798)

9055): tomorrow: 3.30pm, carol service; Dec 19: 7.30pm, a Christmas celebration with Cathedral Choir and Southern Sinfonietta in aid of Cathedral Charities (tickets).

N. IRELAND

Armagh, St Patrick's Cathedral (01861 522802): Dec 22: 7pm, carol service.

Belfast, St Peter's Cathedral (01232 3Z7573): Dec 22: 5pm, carol. service with cathedral choir. Derry, St Eugene's Cathedral (01504 262894): Dec 22: 7pm, carols Newry. St Patrick and Colman. Cathedral (01693 62586): Dec 19

St Mary's High School. SCOTLAND :

Aberdeen, St Mary's Cathedral (01224 640160): Dec 24: 11.30pm carol service.

8pm. Cathedral carol service with

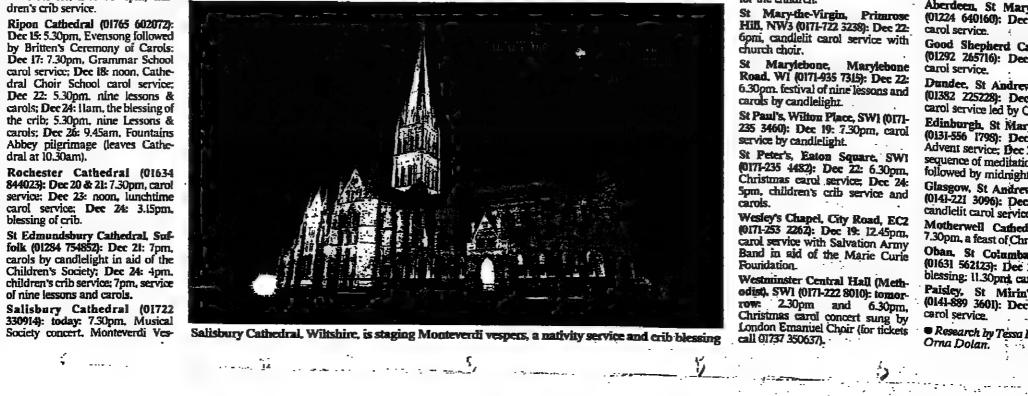
Good Shepherd Cathedral, Ayr. (01292 265716): Dec 24: 11.30pm. carol service.

Dundee, St Andrews Cathedral (01382 225228): Dec 22: 2.30pm. j carol service led by Cecilian Choir Edinburgh, St Mary's Cathedral (0131-556 1798): Dec 20: 7.30pm Advent service; Dec 24: 11.30pm, 2. sequence of meditations and carols;

followed by midnight mass. Glasgow, St Andrew's Cathedral (0141-221 3096): Dec 24: 11.30pm.

candlelit carol service. Motherwell Cathedral: Dec 1825 7.30pm, a feast of Christmas music (Oban, St Columba's Cathedral (01631 562123): Dec 22: 5pm. crib blessing: 11.30pm; carol service. Paisley, St Mirin's Cathedres (0141-889 3601): Dec 24: 11.30pm; carol service.

Research by Tessa Edbrooke and



STATE LABORAGE

Plans to clean up the countryside fail to understand what goes on behind all that mess - there may be a lack of gloss, but there is no lack of life

remember the day war broke out as if it was only yesterday; which is not surprising since hostilities only began on Monday. The call to arms was uplifting, and, if read with a Churchillian growl, would have every red-blooded

country dweller reaching for a tin hat. I quote: "It must be fought wherever it appears — not just in the open country-side but in village high streets and in the vulnerable zones : around the urban margins and along the transport

Wow! What manner of threat can this be? Supermarket expansion, housing development, wind farms, bypasses, plagues of locusts, massacre of the first born? None of those. The words were published by the Council for the Protec-tion of Rural England (CPRE), to launch

its campaign against rural "clutter". Oh, that's all right then. I thought, breathing a sigh of relief, nothing to do with me. It must be all about the crassness of 20th-century phone boxes plonked outside medieval churches, hamburger shops on the fringes of ancient woodland, that sort of thing. Difficult not to support a campaign

One man's clutter is another's treasure

against deliberate scarring of the land-scape. The photographs that accompanied the campaign booklet. The Cluttered Countryside, showed telecommunication towers atop the South Downs and power lines scything across hill and dale. It all served to prepare the soul to receive the words of Clough Williams-Eilis, an architect and early campaigner writing in 1928, who said: "A state of being that some of us find intolerable can only be changed by enlisting, through pain, a great body of active sympathisers who have come to

see that to go as you please is not always to arrive at what is pleasant." The trouble with all this, and what will be eventually a source of more pain than even Williams-Ellis expected, will be deciding exactly what is clutter. The CPRE shows caravan parks, signposts and snack bars in lay-bys as prime culprits. The worry is where they will be pointing the finger next. I would certain-

ly not escape their scrutiny. I have a modest mountain of hay which is being protected from the weather by a tatty grey sheet held down by a few sets of twisted harrows. It is not a pretty sight. But it is an honest pile of hay and those rusty old harrows gave good service, once, I am sure that Liberty do a nice, uncluttering tarpaulin with a rural pattern but it would

be beyond my pocket. My muck-heap would not bear close scrutiny either. Rather than being a shrine to the miraculous process of composting, it is, to be honest, a pile of ... er ... organic clutter. I suppose the CPRE would rather I built one modelled on Swiss muck-heaps, which are as near, tidy and rectangular as their blocks of chocolate.



that you feel compelled to remove your shoes when crossing the border.

Do not think that I am in any way against this campaign, it's just that I have a deep unease based on the fact that, in my experience, the most interesting things in the countryside happen in the most cluttered places. Take villages. I could show

you one not five miles from here which is alive, thriving, busy, has its own shop, school, pub, garage, and yet is about as tidy as the desk of the average sevenyear-old schoolboy. There are hlots all over this village caused by overhead power lines, fast roads and cheaply built postwar council housing. The most common sight is of jacked-up Ford

modelled on Switzerland, in front gardens, or old men staggering which is so spic and span to a ramshackle shed to retrieve a spadu to a ramshackle shed to retrieve a spade with which to attack the garden. There is no lack of life, just a lack of gloss.

A few miles the other way is the perfect

English village. Cottages called Rose. Bramble and Hawthorn huddle around a pond where the ducks subdue their quacking for fear of disturbing the peace. It has prettiness and uncluneredness like Shirley Temple had cuteness. It is as dead as a dodo, but it is tidy,

Or take the case of Mark Popplewell of Snelland in Lincolnshire, who had an enforcement order served on him by his local council because neighbours said he had turned a pasture into a scrapyard. The order was lifted when his tractor collection was eventually recognised as "nationally renowned". One man's clutter is another's national treasure, but who's to say which is which?

"Riding establishments," says the report primly, "are common offenders with scruffy buildings ... tyre dumps and luridly-painted oil drums and poles." I am hanging my head in shame again. Sorry everybody, we have lurid poles. It is just that if you paint them the same colour as Barbour jackets the pony can't see them and might bang its knees, thus bringing the animal welfare enthusiasts down on my back as well. As for tyres, I suppose they are somehow less cluttering when attached to tourists cars.

Inter is less important than what goes on behind it. By all means let us rid trunk roads of corporate advertising hoardings, nor do we need any more signs telling us how far to a Little Chef. But the best bacon sandwich ! ever ate was bought from a cluttered old truck in a lay-by, and the best horsewornan I know operates from a stable held together with nails, string and bits of fin Why should we be robbed of such skills because these people have less of an understanding of the decorative arts than some might wish?

 Readers can write to: The Times Countryside Campaign, c/o Weekend. The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

Wigeon come , in from the cold

FEATHER REPORT

MORE AND more wigeon are coming into Britain as we get nearer to Christmas. Their numbers will peak in the new year, with about a quarter of a million of these handsome ducks on our estuariés and in

flooded meadows inland. They go around in flocks, and are usually seen at the edge of the water, because, like geese, they eat a lot of grass. They are quite sturdy walkers on their webbed feet.

On the water, they are easily recognised from a long way off. The drakes have chestnut heads, with a curious buttery shield above the beak. Their back is a soft grey, with a cobweb of fine lines, and they have distinctive white patches on the flank and in front of the tail. The females are a ruddy brown, but they have the same round heads and small beaks

Land Constitution

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as the drakes. I watched a flock of about 70 at the edge of some floodwater earlier this week. They were in and out of the water all the time, nibbling away at the grass for a while, then floating about idly, or picking up odd blades of grass from the surface. At one point the whole flock leapt into the air and shot away into the sky, revealing the white patch at the front of their wings, a feature found in no other British duck. A few small teal also went up with them. They circled round, flying very fast, not stretching their necks out so far as most ducks, then all of them streamed down again. They were soon feeding on the muddy grass or drifting affoat as calmly as before. They used to feed mainly on eel-grass in

PURE SILK TIE

the estuaries. As with brent geese, a taste for grass in the pastures and for the young shoots of winter wheat is a recent development, though now quite regular.

The biggest flocks are found every winter on Lindisfarne in Northumberland, and further south on the Ouse Washes. Most of them go back to northern Europe or Russia in the spring, but a few pairs stay to nest in the heather by the Scottish lochs.

Visitors to Iceland complain of the countless midges that swarm in summer, but the wigeon like them. They feed their young on them, and eat some of them themselves.

ANOTHER unmistakable characteristic of the wigeon is its whistling call-note. The birds I watched used it constantly. It can be represented quite accurately as "whee-ou" - the first syllable sharply uttered, the second more mellow and resonant. For me it is one of the most haunting winter sounds. On many cold day I have heard it ringing out from a mist-covered lake where nothing was visible, and thought to myself with pleasure, "Ah! wigeon there".

DERWENT MAY

• Where about Birders — look out for smow (a white, black and grey duck) on gravel pits and reservoirs. Twitchers paddyfield warbler, Marazion, Cornwall; American wigeon, Conwy, North Wales; Kentish plover, Fleetwood, Lancashire Details from Birdline, 0891 700222: 40p a min cheap rate, 50p



Wigeon like to come ashore to feed on pasture grass



The red deer is a forest animal. The wellbeing of the species will be achieved only be reducing numbers to a population that can be sustained inside the new woodlands

Vhy it's good to stalk

Jim Crumley argues that it is time to do away with barren sporting estates and restore the wooded wildernesses where deer can thrive

he long, contouring diversion to come up-hill and downwind has taken half an hour. The last 200 yards are marked by the furrow I have crawled through deep snow. The long black barrel is cold in my ungloved left hand. The

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BEST

sight is settled comfortably at my right eye. A fierce intensity of concentration before I shoot, seeking out the perfect stillness. An audience of deepwhite mountainside crowds round to watch. The denoue-

ment is at hand.

In the parlance of the Highland deer forest, he is a royal", a 12-point red deer stag. Monarch of this particular glen he may be, but there is little majesty about him now, with the rutting season over and winter entrenched. Exceptionally heavy falls of

snow lie thickly even on the lowest slopes, knee-deep in the gullies to a stag which likes to run stiff-legged and high-headed. Now he moves slowly. head-down, placing each foot with tentative restraint. His passion is spent, his strength sapped and, just when he could have done with an Indian summer and a late bit of hill grass, moss and lichens, the heavy snows have come early and buried all that

A few weeks ago, he was royal. He raged across the flame-shaded autumn grasses, roaring his rutting season anthem, strutting his stuff with 18 hinds, rustling the hinds of lesser stags to swell his harem, fending off all challenges. His voice and the wide set of his lowered antlers were deterrent enough. I saw him drive out two of the older

hinds. Only the best for him. But the rut takes its toll. Now he has slouched back to the bachelor herd. He is weaker now than he has ever been, weaker too than he should ever be. He is enfeebled by the deer forest.

"Deer forest" - it is not a fortunate expression. It de-fines vast acreages of Highland landscapes made barren by design, shorn of all trees by sheep and by felling, then stuffed with deer to nip natural regeneration in the bud to create "the sporting estate", that expression loathed by many people in conservation and crofting as a euphemism for the most useless and hopeless of all the Highlands' land management options. People and natural predators were cleared with more or less equal vehemence. The Highland Clearances coincided with a crusade by the new breed of Victorian landowners against raptors and carni-vores; both flowed unchecked through much of the 19th century and made deserts of Highland Scotland. Both people and natural predators are still inconvenient to the

> 'Nature would never have presided over the decline of the demeaned beasts'

wellbeing of the deer forest, if anything so terminally emaciated as a deer forest can exist in a state of wellbeing.

But the deer forest is a transient state, and there are merciful signs that its days are numbered, doomed by a growing desire to put back what should be there, what was there - tree forests, resuscripted from native stock. It has begun to happen already in a few small reservoirs of enhanced nature. We are a long way from restoring the dark, primitive tracts of Caledonian wilderness so beloved of bears and wolves and hunting Stuart kings, but there are several thoughtful woodland reintroductions - such as the RSPB's

pinewood transformations at

Abernethy, near Perth, and the Woodland Trust's ambitious plans for rejuvenating Glen Finglas in the Trossachs - where nature can thrive and

people can work the land. In every example of these new woods, the first step has been to remove sheep and begin culling the red deer, sometimes by as much as 75 per cent. It sounds cruel, but in reality it approximates to the kind of solution which nature would contrive if it was left to its own devices. Nature would never have presided over the decline of the red deer, from the forest giant it once was to the demeaned beast that

haunts today's Highlands. For the red deer is a forest animal, Mainland Europe still treats it that way, and its red deer are a third bigger, more monarchic, by far than our mountain dwellers. The wellbeing of the species will be achieved only be reducing numbers to a population that can be sustained inside the new woodlands, the phrase "deer forest" redefined — to mean a forest of native trees in which red deer thrive and have no need to fear the debilitations of a mountain

Deer forests, as defined by sporting estates, are reservoirs of anti-nature. They are locked-up places, asphyxiated into a state of all-but-lifelessness, denied the lifeblood of diversity in nature and the oxygen of trees. All this to perpetuate the economics where high deer numbers equals many shooters with money to burn, equals revenue

for the landowner. Which brings me back to the "royal" in my sights. He is too weak and the snow is too deep. He stares bleakly at the long black barrel I have trained on - a 400mm telephoto lens. I have merely recorded his suffering, not ended it.

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CHANGING TIMES

MUSEUM

When one of the family is missing

ike all good ideas, it seems ludicrous that it had never been thought of before. The National Strays Bureau. which is being launched nationwide this month, is one such brainwave. Sponsored by Winalot, the NSB will become the first national pet registration scheme also to offer a lost and found service. As about 250,000 dogs and perhaps as many cats go missing each year, the scheme has to be considered essential.

The NSB has been operating in the M25 area since August 1995 and, according to Scotland Yard, it has been instrumental in doubling the number of dogs reunited with their owners.

"We are launching nationally this month because the run-up to Christmas is a key time when pets go missing and the necessity for such a service is at its peak," says Romek Kriwald, the director of the bureau. "People may go on holiday, leaving their dog or cat to be cared for by a friend or relative who may not then be aware of the cautions needed to stop the pet from straving.

"Alternatively, some people who buy a dog for the first time at Christmas may not be equipped to keep him or her safely indoors or outdoors and a new dog could stray and not be able to find the way

back." The bureau acts as a central register where police, vets, dog wardens and the public can report stray dogs. It operates on a smaller scale for cats. When owners have lost their pet, they simply need to call the Lost and Found Service. If an immediate match for the pet is not found, the details stay on the central register for a month.

We now have two ways of dealing with the problem of strays throughout Britain," says Mr Kriwald. "The first is the Pet Registration Scheme which costs £7.50 and registers dogs and cats with us for life. We provide the pet with a collar tag with a registration number on it and the telephone number of the NSB. If the pet is found, one call to our offices means we can contact the owners and reunite them.

"The second is through the Lost and Found service, which is the only central register in the country to operate in conjunction with the pet registration scheme."

Guy Walters on a new bureau for lost

and found pets

On its present basis the system works well, as Bridie Heppell from Camden, north London, discovered. Gemma, her seven-year-old cross-breed Staffordshire bull terrier decided to slip out the front door a few Mondays ago. "I rang everybody." says Miss Heppell. "The police, the RSPCA, the dog wardens and the NSB."

On Wednesday the NSB reported a match at the Battersea Dogs' Home, but it was not Gemma. Miss Heppell became desperate and put posters up in nearby streets. The following Saturday, the RSPCA informed the NSB that it had found Gemma two miles away



Howie, eight, would enjoy life in a noisy household

HOWIE is a tan and white mongrel, aged eight, who loves people and would benefit from a busy household. He will do anything for toys or treats but needs to learn that he cannot always have things his own way. He has been at the centre since March 1996.

Contact the Dogs' Home Battersea, 4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA (0171-622 3626).

was able to pick her up from Battersea on the Sunday morning.

The NSB were brilliant in keeping in touch," she says, "And they were very calming - I was obviously in a bit of panic. My twoyear-old daughter was extremely upset. It was like losing a member the family."

When Gemma returned, she was a bit thin and had a dose of kennel cough, but was otherwise healthy. despite being outside during some of the harshest weather this year. Miss Heppell has now put Gemma on the NSB's register.

Another beneficiary of the NSB is Donna Brodie from Clapham, southwest London. On bonfire night, Amy, her ten-year-old colliccross, managed to escape from the house, although she had been sedated. "When we came back and found she wasn't there we just felt the worst had happened," says Miss Brodie.

"Army had been sedated so she didn't get scared by the fireworks, and we were worried that in her drugged state she might have run onto Clapham Common and then got hurt. We spent half the night iving around looking for her."

iss Brodie called nearly every relevant organisation that she could think of. The police referred her to the NSB, who said a similar dog had been handed in to Battersea Dogs' Home. Miss Brodie was reunited with Amy the next morning. Amy has now been registered with the NSB which, says Miss Brodie, gives her "much peace of mind".

With so many pets going AWOL, the NSB will have its work cut out. It receives about 50 calls a day reporting lost dogs and cats, and at any one time there are at least 4,000 to 5,000 dogs on its register that have been reported missing or have been found. These numbers are expected nearly to double after Christmas, so do remember to keep the front door shut.

■ The National Strays Bureau is open Sam-Spm weekdays and 10am-opm weekends and Bank Holidays. People who have lost their dog should call the NSB Lost and Found Service on 0897 NSB Lost and Pound Service on 0597 123999 (calls cost £1.50 per minute, up to a maximum of £7.50). To register your dog or cat ring 0990 168220 (all calls charged at local rates).



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A VET WRITES

We have just moved and I took Buster, my five-year-old labrador. for his annual booster injections; the new vet said distemper boosters were needed every two years, and only leptospira and parvovirus boosters were necessary this time. My previous vet always gave the lot. Who is right?

They are both "right". A The primary vaccinations Buster was given as a puppy stimulated his immune system to make antibodies against four potentially fatal diseases; distemper, which includes hard pad, leptospiro-sis, infectious hepatitis and parvovirus. Immunities wear out unless they are reinforced by contact with natural disease or booster inoculations. A vet who is familiar with the disease pattern in his practising area knows what is the most sensible booster programme for local dogs.

Our cat Blackie arrived home with his right upper eye tooth broken off. He is eating without difficulty. How did it happen and will it come against will it grow again?

A it could have happened in a fight with another cat. He may have been in a road accident, or fallen and hit his tooth. It will not regrow, and if the stump is still firmly fixed in its socket decay is unlikely.

My Lakeland terrier rolls in any smelly mess he finds. Often he has to be bathed when we come back from a walk. Why does he do this, and will repeated baths harm his coaf?

A Your dog is trying to disguise his natural scent. This could have helped his ancestors by preventing prey detecting dog-scent until too late. Put him on the lead when you see a smelly mess and congratulate him when he does not roll in it. This won't work every time. Use a gentle shampoo — dog or baby - as often as you like. He spends nights indoors and so will not miss water-repellent oils in his coat.

JAMES ALLCOCK Readers should write to The Times Ver, Weekend, The Times, Pennington Streat, London El 9XN: Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

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CHARTTES

Sight test is an eye-opener

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING

This is one for the squea-mish who have been seduced by advertisements for laser treatment to improve their sight but who cannot face the operation. The Bates method claims that you can do so naturally.

Dr William Horatio Bates was a turn-of-the-century New Yorker and ophthalmologist who thought that many people wore glasses unnecessarily. That could apply to 60 per cent of British adults who wear spectacles, according to the Eyecare Information Service.

Dr Bates's experiments and clinical observations con-vinced him that normal sight was variable. Long sight, short sight and astigmatism can improve as well as deteriorate with the strain of artificial lighting and computer screens. Like any other muscles, those in the eyes need appropriate rest and exercise.

Aldous Huxley, a Bates fan. put it thus: "The art of seeing is like the other fundamental skills such as walking, talking and using the hands. When the vision has been disturbed, most people must consciously re-acquire the art which as infants, they were able to learn unconsciously. The technique of this process of re-education has been worked out by Dr Bates and his followers."

I was reminded of a girlfriend who went to India after a stressful time taking finals at Oxford, where her eyesight deteriorated. After spending a year painting, she returned with perfect sight. Experts are sceptical. In

Britain, Bates teachers are not trained in optometry, although many are in the United States. They are generally frowned on by the eye-care profession, which believes vision is a physiological function based on sensory perception so disorders cannot be reversed. Nor are there clinical trials which prove Dr Bates's claims. But then there are millions to be made from prescribing glasses.
I visited Peter Mansfield, a

Bates method teacher, at his clinic near Brighton, Sussex. (he also tours Sheffield. Leeds and Manchester). Until he was 28 he was "incapacitated" without glasses, and it is only since he discovered the Bates method that he has been without them. He says: "I discovered the method after I went to an Alexander tech-



His eyesight start- RACHEL KELLY

his first visit to a Bates teacher and he had 30 lessons over six months. The strength of glasses is measured in dioptres with zero representing normal vision. Mr Mansfield's im-proved from roughly minus six to minus two. I (minus 4) was naturally feeling high about the prospect of walking out without my glasses but Mr Mansfield quickly injected a realistic note. Though almost everyone

provement, you need to attend at least six lessons and practise exercises in between for poten-tial miracles. Much depends on the pupil's ability to learn

and the degree of sight loss or eye Seated in a comfy chair. I read out letters from those

cards beloved of opticians, first with, then without glasses. The first surprise is how odd it is to spend an hour without glasses. I reacted by straining to read the letters, but Mr Mansfield had replaced them with three brightly coloured posters - one covered with dancing fish, the Other two with abstract shapes. The posters are used to relax the eyes. Part of the Bates theory is that it is strain on the eye muscle which

causes our sight to deteriorate. Not only do the posters relax the eyes but the brain is also stimulated by the colours.

The method works by learning to keep the eyes and mind relaxed while becoming ever more interested in the world," says Mr Mansfield. "Correcting eyesight is as much about correcting a lazy brain as a lazy eye. It is that lack of connection between the brain and the eye muscle which causes the problems. You see clearly when that relationship is normal."

I did various exercises, such as picking a coloured shape and focusing on that in relation to other colours. Then Mr Mansfield used a binoscope, a thin stick with balls at intervals, and showed me how to focus from one ball to another. He used the letters again to

check any improvement in my sight. The C on the top line was initially blurred but after half an hour I could - cross my heart and hope to die -- see - (84) (84) (85) (14) (14)

Mr Mansfield advised that i should spend some time without my glasses every day. Glasses can be detrimental to the eyes because they inhibit light and reduce the amount of natural variation and movement necessary for good sight, be says. Giving supersharp vision may encourage the eyes to become lazy."

He suggested that I should take up table tennis or badminton to improve my hand and eye co-ordination and, great Scott, to try playing without my glasses. How

lucky that I am uncompetitive.
"When you take your glasses off, don't strain. Just look." he says. There is plenty of interest to see. The light, for example, can be more interesting without glasses. It is not about practising exercises every day as trying to change

your approach to seeing."

The best tip was his technique for "palming". By cupping your hands round your eyes, you induce a warming chamber in which closed eyes relax. Try it when you are next caught in a jam.

For information and a list of teachers, send a El coin taped to your name and address to The Bates Association, PO Box 25. Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6ZF. Peter Mansfield, phone and fax 01273 424752.

Weekend Money, page 28





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and was only occasionally brought food and water. His foul bed was dung, his hooves were painfully long and twisted, he had imitating lice and was

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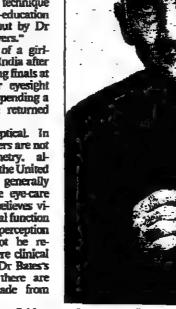
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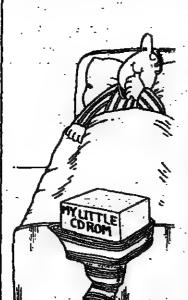
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Do you get the message, Santa?

Please excuse me for raising this, I realise it must be painful. but we parents are at a critical stage here. It's this belief business. We're doing our best but round every corner lurks a poisonous tongue — a puny whisper, as the Bard put it. The unbelievers are

thick on the ground. Under our roof, of course, the merest scintilla of openly expressed doubt among the older children means instant excommunication for the festive season. We find that effective. Your reputation . is safe here for the moment but, to we can sustain it. "

This is in no sense meant as a criticism of your products which.

it could be you, lears the Lottery. It will be you," you chortle, and

it always is. Personally I find it far easier to believe in you than in a scratchcard. You have a 100 per cent record here. And yet, and yet ... some children, quite young ones, have lost faith, and so have their parents. Thus does the fabric of society unwind.

Part of it may be wonderland latigue. There is so much ritual these days. Hallowe'en has risen from nowhere since I was a boy, and so has the Tooth Fairy, about which I confess some ambivalence, though I wouldn't go as far as a friend who simply tells her children in the morning. "Here's your pound then". That really is

PERSONAL LIFE

which" because the TF is an androgynous creature, unlike your good self. I have onen wond-ered why we don't hear more of Mother C, though that's not something I have ever been asked about. Which brings me to my first point.

We were talking about your forthcoming visit the other day and my daughter, who, as you know, is eight, voiced her doubts in the usual way. Freddy says Father Christmas isn't real. He says it's his Dad 'oos he's seen him falling over." To which I gave the standard response: Freddy is a silly little boy. I wouldn't say that kind of thing too loud, Father Christmas might hear." "OK," she

how old do I have to be before you tell me the truth?" Perhaps you could mull that one over for a bit and slip me

the authorised answer. The school must hear some of the blame, because this weekend's homework is to separate fact from opinion about your, er, role. When I asked my daughter what she wanted this Christmas, she replied: "I don't know, I'll have to go and look at some adverts."

Well, it is confusing for them. Your doppelgangers have set up their grottos everywhere (and this multi-identity is another tricky one to explain). American children's films can usually be relied on for reassurance and confirmation, but now we have Toy Story confusing their homework. There's a lot of peer pressure out there.

sake you're well stocked with Buzz

tack of the modern yuletide should

never be allowed to dispel faith. I

hope you will accept that it

certainly hasn't here. You put the

magic into Christmas, we say. The

fact that I am knocking this out on

the old word processor is evidence

of that. My daughter is popping in

point. You may have noticed that this note is presented in a rather

drab fashson, no variety in the type

size, no colour, holly leaves, deco-

rative horders. The truth is, our

machine is on its last legs. The

spacebar has been sticking badly

since the Ribena spillage of 1991.

The software is outdated. To be

Which hrings me to my second

But the ersatz and commercial

Lightycars and Woodies.

and out as I write.

What I'm coming to is, you've probably noticed in the papers all these puffs for multimedia PCs with fax/Internet modems, printers, etc. Money is a trifle short here at present, so the point is, if you could see your way to slipping one on the sleigh, it would strengthen your credentials in this house considerably.

blunt, my lot won't even use it for

Almost any brand will do, but include an eight-speed CD-Rom drive and a decent warranty. Things aren't as reliable as they used to be.

Trusting in you,

PETER BROWN

PS. Hope you like this year's winter warmer, it was on special offer at Tesco's.

PPS. If you could throw in a few computer games, that would be really great.

Cool fix for the brand addicts

Jill Parkin discovers today's children are swayed by makers' labels in their search for the new and funky

babes' main day out. They re in the shopping malls and the supermarkets. You may even have one or two in the back of your car. Sunday shopping is for saddies and oldies, the sort of people who buy own-brand, money-saving, multipacks of crisps in the morning and throng the garden centres in the afternoon.

Saturday is for the family's serious shopper. The brand babe may be old enough to hunt with friends, to hang groupie-like around River Island or Next, or young enough to course you into favourite brands of fizzy drink, yoghurt

These are the youngsters who watch ads and follow trends. They know that if a label is worth buying, it's worth wearing on the outside. Like my step-daughter's Levi's. No other jeens will do for her. "It's the fit, and, yeah, the label," she says. "Cool. You can always tell Levi's. Like a

junior school and in the common room at sixth-form college, they dread exposing themselves as sad, tragic or crusty. You may think that socially, culinarily and texture-wise that describes a Pot Noodle, but among II-19 year olds that's a top brand you're

talking about. I discussed such things with Miss Levi's in the kitchen as she laced up her Kickers, carefully tucking the laces out of sight, natch. "I have a friend," she said, "who buys everything at Next. She buys at least one thing every Saturday. And then she sounds trendy on Mondays. Do you reckon she's insecure?". Probably. I suspect half

THE CHILDREN, some

so tiny they could barely clamber up the stairs, filed into the assembly

room. The hall, with its

polished wooden floor,

emulsioned walls and

epitome of traditional church school

halls. A lone candle flickered on a stool

at the front as the older children, whose

genius, even at the age of 11, in customising their red, grey and blue school uniforms needed to be seen to be

believed, seated themselves on benches

at the back. The smallest, aged three,

clustered cross-legged on the floor at the

front, giggling, watched benevolently by teachers, also young, who were seated around the sides of the hall.

This was the daily assembly at St

John the Baptist, an infant and junior

school in Hackney, north London.

Although some of the children are Sikh,

Muslim or Hindu, parents are aware

the entire school day is underpinned by

Christian principles.

when they send them to St John's that

It all starts with the assembly. "It is a

point of focus for the day," says the headmaster, Russell Reeves. It is a time

to worship, sing and pray together." .

The school is in an area where

vandalism is low and community spirit.

high. "Get up, out of bed," we sang in

the first song, the children stretching

and touching their toes as the words

demanded. This was the start of Advent,

and the theme was "get ready".

The children seemed genuinely con-

cerned when Mr Reeves apologised for

the failure of the local vicar, the Rev

Malcolm Macnaughton of St John's

church next door, to show up. "I'm not sure what I'm going to do," he said.

Then, a hand appeared from behind

some boxes on the stage, then a sleepy, head with a wide yawn. The children

outlage themselves in respectable camel and blue checks from Burberry and Aquascu-

tum have a shady past. Levi's, Nikes, DMs, Reeboks and Kickers. My steps aren't full-blown brand babes but certain labels have filled our house over the weekends for many years now. Youngsters like to be part of a pack. It gives them confidence. In the case of Miss Levi's and her pack, enough confidence to pronounce Nikes as one syllable and swear they're right.

Parents of preteens are bullied into Chipie shirts, Heads sports bags and Muddy Fox mountain bikes, Sega and Nintendo computer games, Walkers crisps, and Cadbury's cream eggs.
Television converts into peer

pressure. My four-end-a-half-year old; who hardly ever sees television, insisted on packed lunches so that she could have a Barbie lunchbox like her friends, I hated the idea and we ended up with the compromise of Forever Friends.

had enough of those little bags of Tesop saver crisps. And the children's panel of

the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency would understand that. They are a 60strong taste jury convened regularly to research children's fads and fashions, to run adverts by them and see what they think. So I went along to meet the Misses Little of Penge, veteran members of the panel. These are not rich children who can have anything. They're thoughtful and intelligent youngsters from a large south London family who have hand-me-downs as well as a say in the nation's corporate advertising budget.

Jessica Little, 12, is a Lilt

Ruth Gledhill watches morning assembly, with its new twist to Advent

Be alert, says the dozy vicar

Assembly time at St John's school

collapsed into laughter. The vicar

crawled out, muttering: "I'm sorry,

sorry." He had arrived early but had

fallen asleep, he explained. But it was Advent, and this meant everyone there

He likened himself to the foolish

virgins", of Matthew 25, who failed to

take oil for their lamps and dozed off

when waiting for the bridegroom.

"Keep watch, for you never know when

the hour is coming," said the vicar, to the watchful children. And, to make

sure the message sank in, he invited ten

hoys and girls on to the stage to enact the wise and foolish maids. "Jesus told

us that story so that we would always be

wide awake," he said. "What He meant

was that we should always be alert.

There are some people who run around

all the time, buying things in the shops,

had to be ready.

Hula Hoops off her fingertips. She was wearing a pair of those big, shiny, red lace-ups which look so ugly to us but produce beautiful feet. "It is true I dragged Dad up to the Doc Marten Centre in Covent Garden to buy them," she said. "I wanted to make sure I

had the right sort." Big sister Sharon, 28, who works for JWT, reckoned they were lucky to have parental approval for trendy footwear. "It was Clark's for me until I was about 15," she said. "But, mind you, we all have to eat

That would they rather eat? "Frosties," said ten-year-old Lucie, who was nursing a Coca-Cola bottle. "Coco-Pops," said seven-year-old Alice, who prefers Pepsi. Typical, according to JWT research. Sixteen-year-old Victoria, a

Linda McCartney veggie product fain, has recently re-tired from the JWT panel because of age. Veteran though she is, she finds C&A Picasso."

The cool, the fainty, the This week she's taking Prote excellent. They's spetid their "Hoops for her morning snack though she is, she finds C&A and Littlewoods a bit crusty and old", preferring to shop at the fainty she is and old", preferring to shop at the same she is and old", preferring to shop at the same she is a self-ridge. and old", preferring to shop at Top Shop and Miss Selfridge. People are influenced by

the ads, but mainly by each other," she says. According to JWT research, the supermarket brand babe "herds" the trolley-pusher to favourite brands by exploiting the parent's fear of losing sight of a child. The child will run ahead, drawing you in her wake, or simply disappear and be found standing next to the Beano, still a top publication for seven to ten-year-olds.

Victoria and her mates buy their smellies at Body Shop. "Not just because of the animal thing, but because it's nice in there. It's friendly and smells good," she said. "It's growy." Students of teenage



The Misses Little of Penge, south London, with their mother. Rosemary, are members of an advertising agency's research panel into what's groovy

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vocab take note: there's good groovy and there's crusty groovy. Before you accept the compliment, listen for the note

of sarcasm. The younger two Miss Littles discussed the small virtues of Puppy in My Pocket, Polly Pocket, and the spin-offs from Farthing Wood and Sylv-anian Families, while Rosemary Little, a mother of nine, revealed the pressure for Crunch Corners, Ambrosia Custards, Maltesers and McVities biscuits.

Then it was homework time. Victoria laced up her Reeboks to walk round the corner for a German lesson, and Lucie got out her Lion King pencil case. "Like the new jeans," I said to my step-daughter next morning as she brushed the dust off black Levi's. "I suppose," she

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ARCHITECTURE: Victorian recibrick, with

children's artwork decorations. **

TALK: Entertaining clowning with a

serious side by the local vicar, the Rev Malcolm Macnaughton. **

MUSIC: Sue Bruce, pert-time music teacher and planist, vigorously led the

anthusiastic children in a series of modern

worship songs. **

LITURGY: Prayers and songs around a

central dramatic talk, **

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Mince pies

served after church carol service next

week. Some of the children can be seen

tomorrow in the nativity play at the

10.15am service at St John's church.

SPIRITUAL HIGH: A gentle

awakening, ***

doing sport; they might as well be asleep,

because they don't know what's going

on around them. When lesus said stay

Mr Reeves led us in prayer. "Dear

God, help us to wake up. Help us to be

kind to each other. When there is an

argument in the playground, help us not

to get involved. Help us to bring happiness, peace and friendliness to the people

we meet. We can do that by smiles, kind

words and helping each other."
In spite of a lasting suspicion that the children who enjoyed it most were those allowed to slide dramatically on to the

floor and feign sleepiness, there was no

question they were wide awake and

attentive for their ensuing lessons.

• St John the Baptist School, Crondail

Street, Hoxton, Hackney, London NI

awake, he meant stay awake to God."

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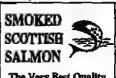
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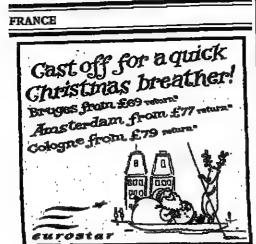
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Islanders on Huahine, about 100 miles northwest of Tahiti, enjoy a sleepy and unsophisticated lifestyle on their lush and mountainous land. With its small population. Huahine seems to epitomise the atmosphere of French Polynesis

A brush with Gauguin's Nature World

ur flight arrived at Faa'a Airport in Ta-hiti at five in the morning. As we left the plane the rain pelted down with such force that, by the time we had crossed the Tarmac to the terminal, we were soaked. Bleary-eyed musicians strummed ukuleles as we shuffled, dripping, through

100

10年

Immigration and Customs. Then we were presented with garlands of frangipani blossoms and assurances that the rainy season was over, the shower being most unusual for May, Indeed, as soon as the sun rose, the sky cleared, but the air remained clammy and the smell of flowers almost sickly. However, it does not take long to acclimatise and within a few hours I was enjoying the heady atmos-

The Tahitians are goodlooking in a fleshy, pumped-up way; the men are fall, well proportioned and extravagantly muscled; the women are languid and have soulful eyes. Their language sounds musical but somewhat melancholy, full of sighs and soft-broken vowels. They have a brooding manner: often, in conversation, they shrug and say, "Fiu." denoting boredom. or quiet despair - not so much gloomy as reflective.

Although Tahiti is the mostpopulated island in French Polynesia, it has not lost its beauty. On our way to the Gauguin Museum, we stop-

atmosphere and musical language of the islands of French Polynesia ped to look at the cave at Mara'a hidden from the road by a plantation of travellers' palms, tall flamboyantes and

porcelain roses. The trees gave way to ferns and the grotto appeared like a great semicircular archway filled with blue-grey water. A trick of the light makes the far wall seem much closer than it is; Gauguin once claimed it took him an hour to swim to the back of . the cave. The Tahitians believe it is a haunted place, fed by anunderground river that flows from the spirit world.

The Gauguin Museum is spread across a series of pavilions in a botanical garden. It contains few original works but tells the story of the painter's life. I realised how skilfully he portrayed the mysterious listlessness (the "fiu" mentality) of the

Tahitians. Throughout the 19th century, various creative escapists headed for French Polynesia. Gauguin initially came because he had read Pierre Lou's account of island life. Herman Melville, Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London and, in this century, Rupert Brooke all came in search of an earthly paradise.

Less well known are the dony American idealists who were known as Nature Men.



the first Tahinian to visit

Britain, the protégé of Joseph

Banks. Omai was lionised as the personification of the No-

ble Savage, Reynolds painted

his portrait and he dined with

Dr Johnson, who found his

behaviour elegant. Presented to George III, Omai inquired,

"How do. King Tosh?" Before his return to Tahiti four years

later, he was showered with

In his homeland, however,

Omai was a commoner and

his celebrity was regarded as a

snub to the Tahitian monar-

chy. Captain Cook decided

Omai would be safer in

Huahine and had a stone

cottage built for him to house

his Western treasures. Unfor-

tunately the cottage was looted

and burnt as soon as the

British sailed away.

expensive gifts.

Following in some celebrated footsteps, Joe Roberts discovers the heady

They formed a nudist colony at Teahuupoo, eating fruit from the trees, sleeping with their heads pointing north and lecturing visitors on the evils of materialism. The colony survived until the 1940s.

he next stop on our trip was the lush. mountainous island of Huahine, about 100 miles northwest of Tahiti. It is much less populated and we feit closer to the real Polynesians. The main town of Fare is a sleepy, unsophisticated huddle of fruit stalls and tiny cafés where people from all over the island come to pass the time of day. We were shown a stream heaving with monstrous eels, protected, apparently, by taboo; some lifted their heads from the shallow

water to pant like dogs.
I met a man with half his entire body covered in blue tattoos, like a harlequin suit. He told me the tattoos were his own design and had taken more than a year to achieve. That evening the same man performed an improbable cabaret at our hotel, a lengthy disquisition on the coconut palm and its role in Polynesian life. It was interesting for about five minutes; by the end the dining-room was practically deserted.

Huahine was the final home of Omai, who in 1773 became ous destination in French Polynesia, with its crystalline waters and emerald peaks. has become a millionaires' playground. Perhaps the worldly values one goes to French Polynesia to escape from are a little too evident the Nature Men would have torn their beards out at the luxury), but for a couple of days it was delightful.

Our hotel rooms were cabins on stilts over the water, each one had a raised glass area under which the floor had been cut away; at night, you could turn on a light and watch the exotic fish swarming below. It was fun to swim in the lagoon, then climb the steps up to one's own room.

Bora Bora, the most glamor-

The island I liked most was Rangiroa, a circular atoll like the rim of a cup, 16 miles across. It is impossible to see one side from another. With comparatively little rainfall its tation is rather sparse, but what Rangiroa lacks in botanical splendour it makes up for

in submarine beauty.
At Tiputa Pass, the ocean tide rushes into the atoll. A boat took us to the mouth of the pass, then we jumped in with our masks, snorkels and flippers and for well over a mile we drifted with the current, a dreamy, effortless pro-

pulsion. Countless small fish flashed past, all vivid psychedelic colours. We were looking down at an underwater garden; the coral, that rose and fell in decorative undulations, seemed to have been arranged by some subaquatic aesthete. Further down we saw large Napoleon fish (their faces somewhat resemble the Emperor's) and sharks (too well fed in those abundant waters to bother humansi and a great moray eel moving from rock to rock like a billowing velvet ribbon. Most spectacular of all were a pair of gigantic manta rays, like spacecraft cruising through an iridescent galaxy.

attended Mass in Avatoru, one of the two villages on Rangiroa. It was Whit Sunday (Pentecost). Everyone had gathered in the small church; the old people sat on benches along the walls, the rest of us on carpets on the floor. The women wore green straw hats and white dresses and some people wore T-shirts with Pentecute 90" on the back. Men and women had flowers behind their ears. The ancient Polynesian tra-

dition of chanting histories and creation myths was easily adapted by the missionaries to become the himene (hymn singing) of today. And what singing it was: the same attenuation and sighing sounds that I had heard in Tahitian speech were turned into limpid harmonies washing over the congregation like gentle waves, each trailed by a few straggling curlicues before the next wave started. The harmonies sounded quite unrehearsed, coming about as effortlessly as breathing.

The Mass lasted two hours. The only boring part was the sermon by the aged French priest, first in French, then repeated in Tahitian, but the singing more than compensated for such doldrums. • The author was a guest of Air France Holidays.



eity breaks from Our North Cyprus & Istanbul 1997 Summer & 1997/98 Winter Brochure is out. For a copy, please call our brochure line on 0181 667 1313 For reservations call

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Kegan Paul International, £14,95, ISBN 0710301332).

FRENCH POLYNESIA FACT FILE

B&B at the Moorea Beachcomber Parkroyal for £1,597, A 12-night

package. Polynesian Paradise (one night on Tahiti. three on Rangiroa, three on Bora Bora, three on Huahine and two final nights on Tahiti) costs E3,198 for B&B. Polynesian Cruising is

seven days and six nights (full board) on a luxury catamaran visiting Bora Bora, the Bay of Hurepiti, Raiatoa and Huahine and one night at the Tahiti Beachcomber Parkroyal for £2,449.

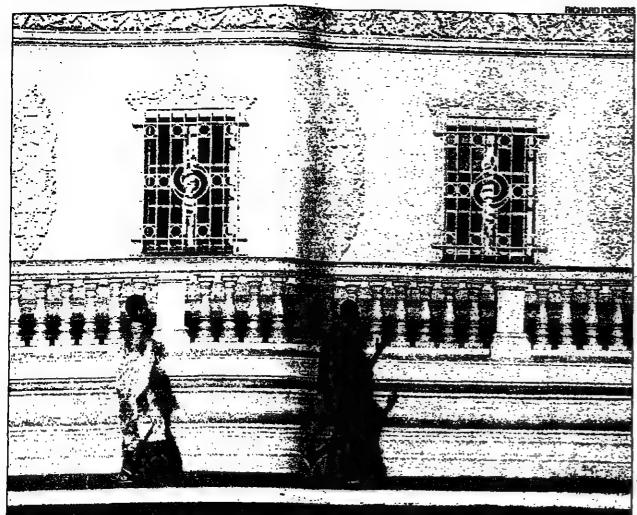
Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0771-229 5260) recommends

The Moon and Sixpeace by Somerset Maughan (Mandarin. 15.99. ISBN 0749303433). Omoo by Herman McIville (

All prices include flights and transfers.

Air France Holidays (0181-742 6600) offers seven nights

Cambodia: Away from horrors of the recent past, David Sweetman surveys marvels of the ancient world



Monks pass the heavenly Royal Palace at Phnom Penh but visitors are also directed to Cambodia's hellish past

The marriage of Heaven and Hell

eaven and Hell is the only way to sum up Cambodia, though it is the latter that tends to dominate any news coverage. Landmines and hostage-taking are the prime stories, a severe setback to the relaunched tourist industry.

First impressions of the capital, Phnom Penh, are pure heaven. A sleepy French colonial town of ochre stucco villas stretching languidly along the banks of the Toulé Sap river, just above the point where it joins up with the Mekong. Heaven is the delicately spired Royal Palace and the nearby silver Pagoda, but there is hell, too, and the people of that tortured land are understandably keen that visitors should learn something about that side of their lives.

Twenty years ago, when the Khmer Rouge took over, it was enough to wear spectacles to be marked down as Westernised and carted off to Pol Porstorture centre in a small

suburban school chillingly dubbed S-21. This is now a museum and, while the temptation is to give it a miss, a visit is essential if you want to understand the country and its people. It is a shattering experience. Only the constant reminder that you are watching a presentation, a show if you like, can help you to take the shock of the first tiny classroom with its rusting metal bedstead and set of

heavy leg-irons on the floor, and its photographic horrors. Some visitors were angered by what they saw, others fell silent. I was just relieved that I could get through it and, having done so, I was less worried about the next stage, the drive out of the city to the notorious Killing Fields at Choeung Ek, where the turbure victims were finally executed and dumped in mass graves.

Having already seen a photograph of the high, glassfronted Buddhist stupe in which hundreds of human skulls are displayed. I was THAILAND LAOS

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Penis

able to steel myself for the reality. What finally undid me was a notice near the entrance that recorded the history of these dreadful events and tried to describe what was done to the people whose corpses were found in the surrounding fields. It began in appropriately sonorous English, but gradually began to break up as the writer struggled to express the unspeakable, stumbling at the almost childlike "... and they did all these tortures on the

skinny body".

I couldn't read any more: I knew it was time to leave.

Thankfully, this searing lesson in the darker side of human nature was suspended when I flew off to visit the

when I flew off to visit the ancient ruins of Angkor in the north of the country. This is heaven, three days being taken round the awesome remains of one of the world's great civilisations.

et within the encroaching jungle, the towered temples and sculpture temples and sculpture the fruit of 400 years of Khmer culture. There is so much to see you need at least three days to get round what the French called the Grand Circuit that starts with the temple of Angkor Wat and radiates out, ending up at Ta Prohm, the one temple that the restorers decided to leave untouched.

In a way, you ought to start in that eerie ruin where the roots of giant banyan trees have broken through the walls and merged into the twisted architecture. This is the original for all those "Temple of Doom" fantasies and gives some idea of what the first explorers must have felt when they hacked their way through the undergrowth and stumbled on these ghostly halls.

Only after Ta Pronm can you fully appreciate the labours of the French archaeologists who carefully reassembled the other buildings. For me, the most stunring of these is the Bayon, the temple of 49 huge towers each with four gigantic, weindly smiling faces of the Hindu god

Avaloketsvara. This is the key image of Angkor, the surreal head found on postcards and in guide books, yet nothing quite prepares you for the vast inhuman scale of the real thing. Like the pyramids and the Great Wall of China and all the other examples of the monumental, one's reactions skill and effort to despair at the megalomania of those who commanded that they be built.

More than a kilometre of bas-relief carvings run like a giant strip-cartoon in three levels round the outer walls of the Bayon. And far from resembling the static, formal friezes found in Egyptian tombs, these are vivid scenes of battle in which more than 10,000 life-like figures act out incidents from Hindu mythology, ending with the great victory of the Khmer armies

over their enemies, the Cham. This drama unfolds with all the movement and zest of a Hollywood epic. From on high, the Great King orders his troops into battle, trumpeting elephants lumber forward, hundreds of spear-carrying warriors march in unison, while further on the enemy brings up reinforcements aboard a fiotilia of galleons that pitch and toss on waters teeming with giant fish. To no avail; the Khmer warships triumph and again we see the Great King, this time on a floating pavilion, a giant figure surveying his victory.

Few films are ever that good and the visitor can live out the experience a little further on from the Bayon at the remains of the royal parade ground, where you can stand at the spot on the high stone terrace, supported by massive sculpted elephants, where the living king reviewed his troops in scenes that were the originals for those depicted on the temple walls.

Standing there, you can almost hear the tramp of marching feet and the groans of the enemy prisoners on their way to slavery or death. But then you pull back. With S-21 and the Killing Fields fresh in the memory, flirting with such things, even in daydreams, seems wrong. Cambodia has this effect.

In a reversal of the usual, it is the present that informs the past. Which is why you have to see both Heaven and Hell, however unsettling the experience may be.

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 David Sweaman's novel, A Tribal Rever, set in West Africa, is published by André Deutsch on \$2500



■ Return flights to Phnom Penh, via Bankok, start from £679 with Thai Airlines (0171-499 9113), and in January from £620 with Singapore Airlines (0181-747-0007). via Singapore.

■ You can arrange an individual holiday farough Regent Fioliday (UK), £5 John Street, Bristol BSI ZHR (0117-21 1711). Prices vary according to the idinerary chosen but, as an example, a single traveller might have to pay about £790 on top of the return air fares, for five days in Phnom Penh and Angkor Wat.

If the easiest way to see the country is with a group tour as an extension to a holiday in either Thailand or Vietnam. Magic of the Orient, 2 Kingsland Court, Three Bridges Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HL (01293 537700, fax 01293 537888), offers a three-night tour, including Pinnom Penh and a day in Angkor, for 5480, including internal flights, accommodation, all meals and sight-seeing, but excluding international flights.

Explore Worldwide, 1 Frederick Street, Aldershot, Hampshire GUII ILQ, (01252 319448, fax 343170) offers a range of tours across Indo-China. combining visits to Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, Example: 12 days in Laos and Cambodia at £1,265, including all flights, and B&B at hotels.

Wisa are issued on arrival. You need a passport valid for six

months from the date of arrival, two passport-sizes photographs.

Notice of anti-malaria tablets. See your GP.

Cambodia is hottest in April, coolest in January, rainiest Nov-Mar and May-early Oct. Wear light cotton clothing.

Reading: Sarah Anderson of the Travel Bookshop (0171-229 52600) recommends. Angkor: Heart of an Asian Empire, by Bruno Dagens (Thames & Hudson. £6.95, ISBN 0 50030 054 2). Sideshow, by William Shawcruss (Hogarth Press, £12.99, ISBN 0 70120 944 5). Passage Through Angkor, by Mark Standen (New Holland, £29.99, ISBN 1 85368 535 6). Cambodia Travel Sarvival Kit (Lonely Planet, £9.99, ISBN 0 86442 447 7).



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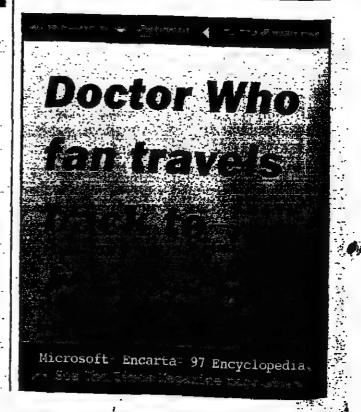
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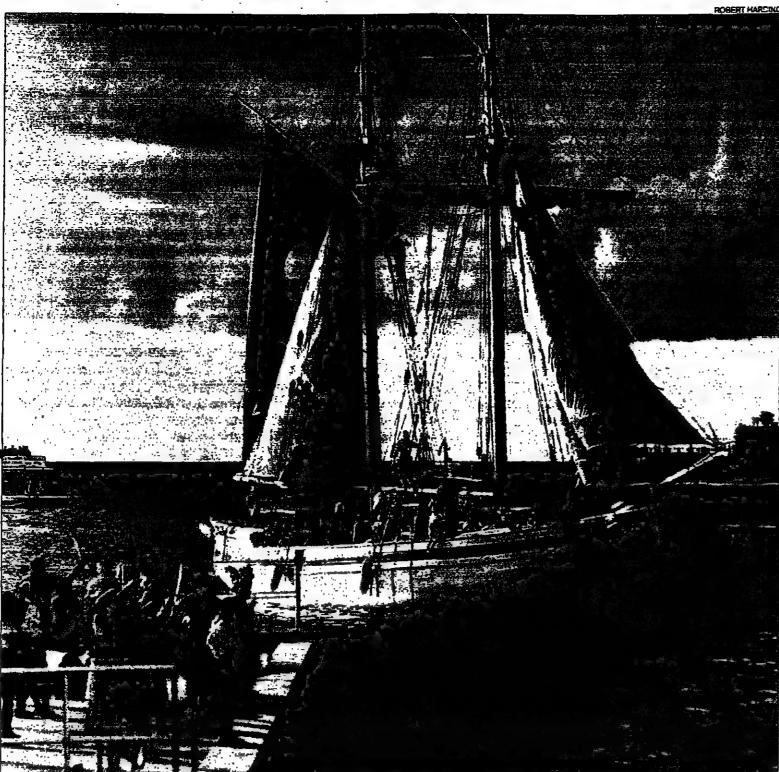
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Grand Cayman and the Bahamas: Adventures in a rich man's world; and a stroll round the palace of love



Celebration time: A pirate ship circles the jetty at Georgetown, the capital of Grand Cayman, at the start of festivities marking Pirates' Week

Dances with stingrays

tingray City. A breezy boat ride through tur-quoise sea and there it is — a sandbar in the ocean where the water is only a few feet deep and where the stingray, normally a private fish, comes with 15 or so others to party with humans. Brushing you with suede-soft wings, it nibbles gently at your fin-

gers in search of food.

That's all very well, I said to the tanned girl at Red Sail-Sports "but is it saie?" She looked bewildered, and then her face cleared. "Oh yes, the boat is perfectly safe," she said earnestly. "We carry out regular checks."

This sang-froid seems com-mon to all divers and snorkellers. "Fantastic morning," they yell as they hoist off their oxygen tanks. "Saw two sharks. They were this close."

Ask them casually if they weren't just a little anxious the hammerheads hoved into view and they give you the half-pitying, halfpatronising smile reserved for landlubbers. The sharks, despite being this big, are perfectly safe, they explain, and you don't know what you're missing. Honestly.

But I was not seduced by the prospect of a frolic with a stingray, no matter how sociable. Happily, there are many other distractions on Grand Cayman. In my limited experience, it is unlike other Caribbean islands for one good reason - money.

Legend has it that it became a tax haven in 1788 after George III decided to reward the islanders for rescuing all passengers from a wrecked convoy of ships carrying merchants from Jamaica to England. Whatever its history, its wealth is obvious.

It is a curious but comfortable mixture of English, American and Caribbean influences. In Georgetown, the

The Silk Road

this legendary route across the

to the bazears of Kashgar,

from the end of the Great Wall

to the wastes of the Gobi

and the heights of the Pamirs.

Salest described to

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te and spectacular landscape of western China. 22 days from the Forbidden City

■ Seven nights' room-only accommodation at the Grand Pavilion (001 345 947 5656), with return British Airways flights and transfers, costs from £979. Information and reservations: Caribbean Connection, 01244 341131.

■ Red Sail Sports offers four-hour snorkelling trips for £40, which includes use of equipment and funch. Reservations: 00 I 345 949 8745.

Atlantis Submarines offers hour-long trips on its 18seater submarine to depths of 100ft. Prices start from £23

for a supersaver rate available on Tuesdays and Fridays, and from £37 on other days. For reservations, telephone 00 I 345 949 8383.

Car Hire with Avis/Cico (00 1 345 99 2468) from £128 a week for a Suzuki Alto.

■ The Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, 0171-491 7771.

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229-5260) recommends The Weather Prophet. A Caribbean Journey by Lucretia Stewart (Vintage, £6.99, ISBN 0 099-59761 6). Caribbean Islands Handbook by Sarah Cameron (Footprint, £14.99, ISBN 0 900-75175 4). Jamaica and the Cayman Islands by James Henderson (Cadogan Guides, £10.99, ISBN 1860 110215). The Diver's Handbook by Alan Hamilton (New Holland, £16.99). ISBN 1853 68745 6.

tiny, super-clean capital, you will find a whitewashed public library which would not look. out of place in Suffolk; a cluster of jewellery shops, including Tiffany's (although this is very user-friendly and offers duty-free prices): a vast bank on every corner (Cayman claims to have more financial institutions than New York) and an engaging don't worry, be happy philosophy.

If there is crime here, it is well-hidden and likely to be of the fiscal kind (although locals resent their island's image as a sun-baked depository for dubious wealth). Tourists are not warned to avoid the streets after dark.

We wandered around most nights and encountered only warmth and courtesy. So friendly are the locals that, stopping one day in our hire car to ask a passer-by for directions, she initially assumed that we simply wanted to say hello. During our week's stay, the most dramatic crime the local paper could

Paradise Found

20 days in the Middle Kingdom.

through a world of gardens, canals, and water-borne villages to the Venice of the East-Suzhou - where philosophers and mandarins retired. Plus the splendows of the

Plus the splendows of the Firshidden Clot, the Terracous Army the sights of Shanghai and Hong Kong and a cruise through the magical mountains of Guilin.

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A taste of the Orient as it's meant to be

come up with was a single burglary. The flip side to so much wealth is that food and drink are expensive. A bottle of beer or a glass of dry white wine can cost £4-£5, while a meal for two in a "mediumpriced" restaurant came to around E75 for two courses

and a bottle of wine.

ret some of our best nights out were also the cheapest. The -Paradise Grill and Bar, just outside Georgetown, with its white plastic tables and chairs, offers what is considered a cheap meal (£40 for two) on Grand Cayman. But the food, though basic grilled fish, steak, hamburgers - is delicious and the view across Hog Bay is unparal-

Thanks to the excellent babysitting service offered by our hotel, the Grand Pavilion, we were able to enjoy the glorious sunsets in peace. If you have children, this is the place to stay. The hotel is much smaller than its glitzier

The Dragon's Crown

the Forbidden City and the savoured the delights of the Guilin and Hong

Kong, retire to the timeless peace of

Anhui. Far off the beaten track among the clouds of the

Yellow Mountain and the lanes of

ancient villages.

13 Apr, 10 Aug, 7 Sep. 5 Oct 1997

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neighbour, the Hyatt, but it is also much prettier, with a powerful waterfall surging into the pool, which is illuminated by fairy lights.

CARIBBEAN SEA

It is also high on comfort. The service, which starts with a chilled glass of champagne the instant you arrive, jet-lagged, at reception, is fault-less, leaving you feeling cossetted. And although the

hotel is not on the waterfront, the beach is only a five-minute amble across the road; a private section provides huge umbrellas, cushioned loungers, bar, attendants, towels, glossy magazines and vanilla

All this does not, of course, come cheap. One fellow guest raced Porsches as a hobby, and most people appeared to have flown Club class. But as you sip your cocktail and gaze at the cruise-ship daytrippers broiling crossly farther along the beach without the benefit of the hotel umbrellas, you can't help but reflect that it is worth every penny.

At 95F, it is certainly hot but

even Isabella, our ten-monthold baby, adapted easily (al-though she and I both caught colds, an almost inevitable result of the over-enthusiastic air conditioning). Her body clock, though, did not reset. By 9pm, she was still raring to go. Which was where the babysitters Hyacinth and

Catherine came in, Rigorously vetted and approved by the hotel, they (in common, it seems, with most islanders) are naturals with children. At three Cayman dollars an hou (£2), it was money well spent, allowing us the almost forgotten luxury of uninterrupted time together for a few evenings.

Meanwhile, Stingray City kept not so much beckoning as accosting us at every turn. Everywhere we went, there were posters advertising it, evangelical entreatles from those who had just experienced it to go, go, go. They're this big and so gentle. Honestly.

But so little time, so much to do. We went down to 100ft on the Atlantis submarine, the only time I have ever yearned (unsuccessfully) for a close encounter with a shark. We drove most of Cayman's 28 by four miles, taking in the turtle farm, the black, volcanic rocks of Hell Point, and the drowsy

little villages. Our penultimate day was spent at Rum Point, where the beach is dotted with broad hammocks, shaded by tall pine trees.

At the Red Sail sports shop were the ubiquitous boards advertising that afternoon's trip to Stingray City. With a sudden surge of perversity, I decided it was now or never. "I'm going," I announced solemnly to my husband, a man who believes that God invented the sea for only one reason fish, preferably lightly grilled or steamed.

I approached the tanned girl and bravely inquired about the dangers of being stung by a stingray. "Oh sure, they can sting," came the nonchalant reply. But they never do."

So that was that. No excuses left. And then she added: "But this afternoon's trip has been cancelled. There are two trips tomorrow, though. Do you want to book now?" You can imagine my distress as I told her that we were flying home the following day. On an aircraft this big. Honest.

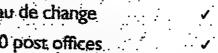
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Sugar and spice on sunset boulevard

e and Adonis. Romantically lit palm trees sway in the background, and an extravagant fountain dominates the

Welcome to the Palace of Love in Nassau, the Bahami-an capital, which goes under the classier name of Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort and Spa. The Sandals string of resorts across the Caribbean of which the Royal Bahamian Lone wanderers must endure pitying glances from the many pairs who drift dreamily by, joined at the hip.

No expense has been spared in turning this sizeable plot on Cable Beach into a temple to hedonism. A large turquoise pool lies at the heart of an artfully constructed swath of pillars, arches, balconies and balustrades, all painted in the colours of a confectioner's palette. Six floors of luxurious rooms, most with balconies and all with fresh flowers. this grand overlook

playground.
The pool area opens on to a private stretch of powdery beach and looks across to Balmoral Island. Sandals intends to develop the offshore islet as a day-trìp destination. The beach also has a gazebo. which allows couples to exchange wedding vows while coning at a propical sunset.

The love theme is taken to astonishing heights in the resort. Beyond the office marked "Wedding Consultant" there is a sugary mockup of suburbia, complete with white front doors, flower basprettified cul-de-sac is where many newlyweds spend their first nights as husband and

There is some respite from coupledom, however. The resort has a superb gymnasium and organises a multitude of watersports, including parasailing, water-skiing and diving. And the spa facilities offer a chance for pampered soli-

FACT FILE

Sandals Royal
Bahamian Resort and Spa offers all-inclusive packages from £2,630 per couple per week. Call British Airways Holidays

on 01293 723161. For a brochure phone Sandals on 0500 742742. ■ BA (0345 222747) has a twice-weekly, direct from Gatwick on Tuesdays and Fridays, Return economy ticket British citizens do not

> Vaccinations are needed ■ The Bahamas Tourist Office 01483 448900. Recommended reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229-5260) recommends Islands in the Stream by Ernest Hentingway (Flamingo, 55.99, ISBN 0006-54693

■ Health: No

The Lucavans by Sandri Riley (Macmillan, 98.95. ISBN 0-333-53933-St. An L'inderwater Guide to Palmer (Immel Publishing, £15.00, ISBN 0-907-15182-5).

watersports and spa treatments come as extras.

The appeal of a child-free holiday is strong and many couples return year after year. Stress levels do plummet when you know that you are safe to lie in your hammock without being harangued by screaming lots.

The Sandals concept seems as popular with mature couples as with the glamorous. pearly-toothed types featured in its glossy brochures. One British couple I met were celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary. However, the Palace of Love is not for you if you have an aversion to couples wearing matching Tshirts (hers saying "Just" and his saying "Married").

Considering that you can feast on whatever you want. whenever you want, the allinclusive price does bring a certain freedom. Tipping is not encouraged, which is a relief because the usual amount is a whopping 15 per cent. The food and drink is fresh, pleasant and varied enough to keep the average guest content for a

Amid such cosseting, it would be easy to forget that a marvellous world lies beyond the Palace of Love, Nassau, which lies on the main Baha-mian island of New Provi-dence, has some lively eateries. The Poop Deck retaurant, which overlooks the harbour, is noted for its delieccentric clientele of flamboyant vacht owners, casual tourists and businessmen in dark

glasses... There is plenty of history and culture for those who tire of lying in a hammock. The Bahamas, made up of 700 islands, gained independence from Britain in 1973 and, as the capital of a former British colony. Nassau boasts some fabulous architecture.

In front of Government House, the neo-classical residence of the Governor Generuniformed guards associated with this country. There is a museum showcasing the stunning, glinering costumes from Junkanoo, the annual Bahamian carnival which originat-

ed with the slave trade. Good shopping possibilities abound, with the daily straw market available for those whose purchasing power does not extend to gems, property or yachts. The casinos are popular for those itching to flaunt some cash.

Nassau's nightlife has its moments — at weekends the famed Zoo nightclub is a swinging place to be, but during the week the dance-floor is empty. Still, this will not be a problem for future Sandals' guests. A nightclub is under construction at the resort so guests will never have to leave the Palace of Love.

Anjana Ahuja

• The author flew to the Bahamas namas Tourist Office.



Temple of love: Statues, pillars and palm trees set the scene at the Royal Bahamian resort

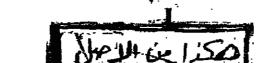


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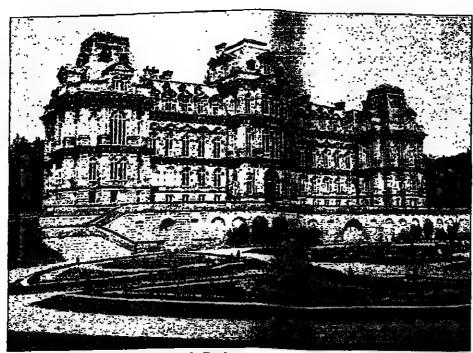
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Britain: A guided tour by Simon Tait of surprising national treasures; plus London's hidden gems...

He shire 150



My ten of the best museums

and now the newest Museums and Galleries Commission member. "What other kind of institution is so widely spread throughout the country and has so much that appeals to so many different people?"

But it seems that museums are not only good for you, they have officially become good fun, too. Moreover, they are a growing influence on us. We are blessed with around

2,000 museums which are among the best in the world, and many of which are the most eccentric in the world," says Grossman. "So the quantity and quality of British museums has had a powerful effect on the quality of life for people who live here."

Here is an eclectic Top Ten of good, fun, influential museums nationwide (see box for London attractions). Just ten, so there are some big absentees: Ironbridge at Telford. Shropshire, Beamish near Newcastle, and Jorvik in York had their influence in the 1980s; the Leeds Royal Armouries transplant is too new to judge: Tussaud's treatexciting, but is it a museum?

Some of these ten are new and some are old but all have developed and kept up with their visitors and the communities in which they belong. All of them, Lloyd Grossman would agree, are good for you.

Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, Co Dorham

This was created in 1892 in a mock-Parisian villa by a beneficent local toff for the education and inspiration of local folk who would never have the opportunity to travel to see great art.

It's nothing like British museums of the period, which were mostly about natural history and archaeology. It is, effectively, a French museum

Paintings were cannily bought for the public taste an El Greco was acquired for £8 — and furniture of the sort which even ordinary people

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

■ Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, Co Durham (01833 690606). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm, Nov-Feb closes at 4pm, closed Dec 24. 25 and Jan 1. Adults

■ Hull Streetlife Museum, High Street, Hull (01482 613902). Mon-Sat, 10am-Spm, Sun 1.30pm-4.30pm. £1 non-

■ Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester (01162 473021). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, closed Dec 25, 26, 27, Good Friday. Admission free.

■ Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, Castlefield, Manchester (0161-832 2244). Daily 10am-5pm, except Dec 24, 25, 26. Adults £4, children £2. Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagan's, Cardiff (01222)

569441). 10am-5pm. Closed Dec 24, 25. £4, children £2. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, East Cliff, Bournemouth (01202 451800). Open Tues-Sun IOam-5pm closed Good Friday and Dec 25. Admission free.

St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, Castle Street, Glasgow (0141-553 2557). Daily 10am-5pm, Sun Ham-5pm, closed Dec 24, 25 and January I. Free.

■ Tower Museum, Union Hall Place, Derry (01504 372411). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, seasonal adjustments, closed Dec 24, 25, 26, Good Friday. Adults £3, children £1. Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Castle Street, Carlisle (01228 34781). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 12-5pm, closed Christmas Day, Admission free for locals, otherwise adults E3.50, children £2.50.

■ Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, West Sussex (01243 811348). Open Dec 26-Jan 3.llam-4pm, otherwise Weds, Sat and Sun until Feb 28. Adults £4.50, children £2.20.

Hull Streetlife Museum

"Forward into the Past" is how the PR material describes this museum, which takes a theme normally shrouded in anoraks - transport - and makes it irresistible. Take the Beverley Turnpike coach, for example, with all its discomfort, noxious fumes and the bustling Victorian racket of mercantile Hull at one end and rural York at the other. Thanks to some Hollywood technology, you never move.

Jewry Wall Museum

Run by the beleaguered county museum service, this museum tackles the complex archaeological story of the city and presents it in a compelling way, making the most of being on the site of the 2nd-century Roman wall. It also has the best display on medieval coalmining thanks to the fantastic recent finds at Coleorton, north Leicestershire.

Manchester Museum of Science and Industry

Built in five historic buildings which include the world's oldest railway station, the MMSI seems to grow by the minute. If you have seen one working steam engine, you've seen them all, and even handson galleries have become obligatory. But here you can see how Manchester's sewerage system works at first hand, visit the new temporary exhibitions gallery hosting this year's blockbuster Star Trek show, and in February a massive treatise on Chinese invention. Another new building, the 1830 railway warehouse, is being converted to house a science theatre and a communications lab.

This is a rich grandpapa's house, full of the bits and pieces acquired by an inquir-

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 21 PROCATARCTIC

(b) Applied to an external cause which is the immediate occasion of a disease. Also applied generally to the immediate or exciting cause of any effect, as distinguished from its predisposing cause or ground. From the Greek prokatarktikos antecedent.

(c) A pretty little lizard from the Antilles. Perhaps the adaptation of a native name.

(b) A raised platform on which people sit. A South Indian word from the Portuguese poyal a jossing block or mounting stone, from the Latin podium a raised place.

(a) Having close intercolumnation; having the space between the columns equal to one and a half of a column. Also a building with such a dense forest of columns. From the Greek puknós dense + stūlos a column.

Gallery and Museum,

St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, Glasgow

This museum, which takes its name from the founder of Glasgow, opened in 1993 at a cost of £6 million. Built in the shadow of Glasgow cathedral, it is the world's first museum to take all religions as its theme, so it's not all stainedglass windows. I'm not sure if l like best the tranquillity of the Zen Garden, Dali's startling Christ of St John on the

ments, furniture and delight-

ful mantelpiece knick-knacks.

There's also a contemporary

art gallery housed in a new

Cross, or the mischievous-looking Shiva Natraja in an 18th-century bronze - but they all have echoes in Glasgow's 1990s communities.

Tower Museum, wing at Grandpa Russell-Cotes's bourgeois palace. Londonderry, N Ireland

The IRA ceasfire was announced on the same day that the Tower learnt it had won the Museum of the Year Award, which took some of the bite out of the controversy surrounding the museum. There is little compromise in its portrayal of Derry's long, bloody story. The most recent events are told in a video documentary, and bold plans for the winter involve adding Bobby Sands's poetry and the Republican flag used to wrap one of the dead on Bloody Sunday, 1972

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery. Carlisle, Cumbria

This was founded in 1877, although thanks to good planning and a £5.5 million facelift, you wouldn't know it. As you would expect from a city with Hadrian's Wall in its back yard, there is a big story to tell, both before and since the Romans. Find out how to write on a wax plate or how to ride a horse as the Romans did. The Viking outrages, medieval Scots' sieges and the picaresque romance of the postmedieval Reiver families that raided across the Border are

also covered.

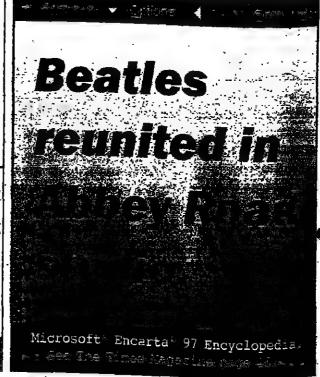
In 1969 Chris and Diana

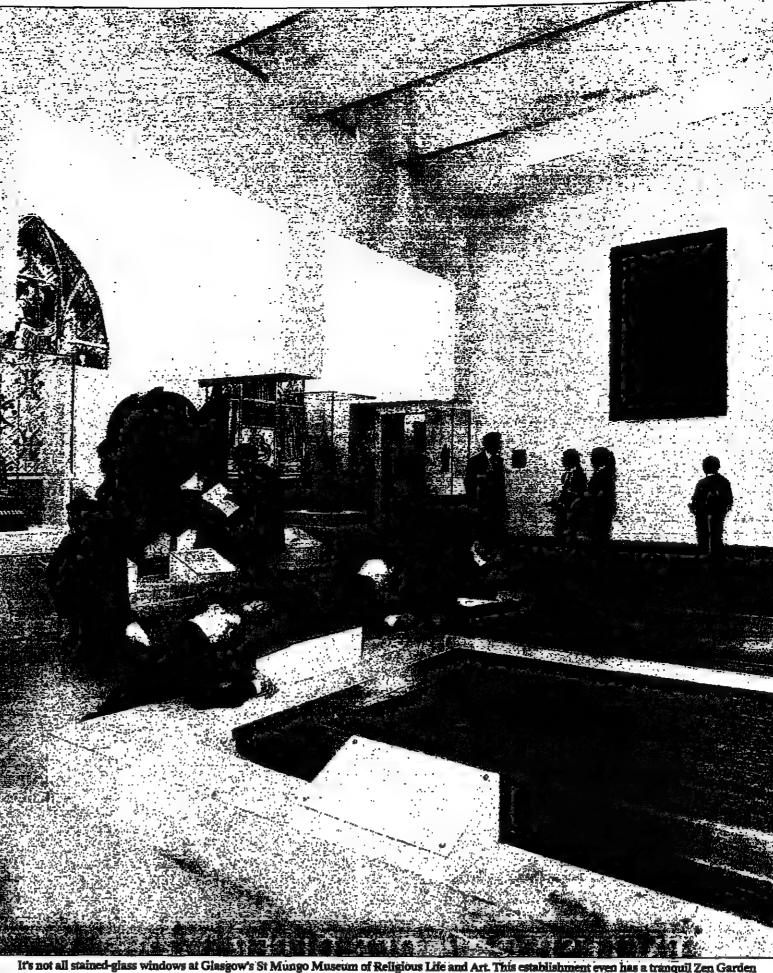
farmhouses. Last year they added the loth-century Longport House, uprooted from the path of the Eurotunnel line, and this year some 19th-century semis from Ashtead, Surrey.

Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagan's, Cardiff

Britain's oldest open-air museum has taken old working. buildings from the area and re-erected them, complete with traditional craftsmen.

for your low cost see your local travel agent call-





It's not all stained-glass windows at Glasgow's St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art. This establishment even has a tranquil Zen Garden



Hull's Streetlife Museum has transport as its theme ing mind over a lifetime — paintings, musical instru-

SI' HIDDEN GEMS ! LONDO!

The Monk's Parlour in Sir John Soane's Museum

Keats House, Keats Grove, Hampstead (0171-435 2062): This has been restored to look as it did when Kears lived there 1818-20. Includes the engagement ring he gave to Fanny Brawne.

AN EXCL

■ Grange Museum, in the Roundabout, Neasden Lane (0181-452 8311): Proving that

Florence Nightingale Museum, St Thomas' Hospital. Lambeth Palace Road (017)-620 0374): Fairly

Cuming Museum. Walworth Road, Southwart (0171-70) 1342): There's hardly a more historical borough, with Romans marching up through it one way and Chaucer's Pilgrims the other way a dozen centuries

Hunterian Museum, Lincoln's Inn Fields (0171-405 3474): Royal College of Surgeons' extraordinary collections only recently made public. Basically an lath-

Sir John Soane's
Museum, Lincoln's Inn Fields,
(0171-430 0175): The personal seum of the architect and polymath, kept as he left it o the nation. Avoid Saturdays

A Special Announcement 7 NIGHTS IN CUBA FROM £395.00

or 14 nights from just £595.00

Commencing in December we shall be inaugurating a new service with Monarch Airlines between London Gatwick and Varadero in Cuba From January we are making available 20 seats per flight on a first-reserved first-assigned basis for a 7 or 14-night arrangement. Essentially the arrangement is for those who

would prefer an unstructured programme by taking advantage of the convenient flights, hotels and local representation. Locally our representatives are on hand to assist with any visits around the sights and/or car hire. In addition we are also able to offer a combinatron of 7 nights in Costa Rica followed by 7 nights

THE HOTEL PRESIDENTE, Havana

The 3-star Hotel Presidente has recently been refurbished but has retained its Spanish facade and interiors. There are 124 rooms all of which have private bathroom and air-conditioning The public facilities include a restaurant, bar,



DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES 1997 Thursdays - per person in a twin January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - February 6, 13, 20, 27 March 6, 13.20, 27 - April 3, 10, 17, 24 May L. 8. 15. 22, 29

7 nights Havana £395 (14 nights £595) Single suppl. £95 (1 week) or £190 (2 weeks) Easter supplement £55 per person Costa Rica & Cuba Combination 7 nights San Jose + 7 nights Havana from £750 per person

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Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. Singleton, near

Zeuner took on the complex task of preserving the region's ancient buildings by dismantling them and rebuilding them here. So there's a barn, a water mill. a charcoal-burner's hut and cottages and

...and good museums for a bite to eat. Meanwhile London's futuristic attraction virtually fails to take off

Enjoying food with thought

n the not so distant past museum catering dealt in salads as desiccated as Roman mosaics, sausage rolls like hypocaust pantiles and fossilised cake. Not so now. Instead we have some museum cafés and restaurants good enough to feature in eating out guides. Here is a selection of the best:

LONDON British Museum

idon's hidden gen

Great Russell Street, WC]. (0171-636 1555) am not going to pretend the

British Museum restaurant is any competition for the restaurants in the Louvre, but what visitors will find, if they persevere around the detours caused by temporarily closed galleries, is much better than they might expect: a split level modernist space with white walls, golden wood and an imitation classical frieze in plaster. In the restaurant, colourful salads, are attractively presented: good soups and stews, wholesome bread, and artfully displayed cold dishes. It is so good that, inevitably, there are often aveues.

Museum of Mankind. Caff Colombia 6 Burlington Gardens, WI (0171-287 8148)

A cool and airy room with linenbacked chairs, glass tables and blonde wood furnishings, enlivened by some surprise items from the museum collection. The café provides a sanctuary off the overbeaten West End track of nearby. Piccadilly and Bond Street, Coffee, as one would hope in a place with this name, is excellent, while the sandwiches are principally Eurocentric, featuring Parma ham and best Brie. The place actually attracts more business customers from surrounding Mayfair than museum visitors. Lunch dishes, which include office workers? favourites, offer salmon and Caesar salad and buffalo mozzarella with char-grilled vegetables.

Victoria & Albert Museum, The New Restaurant Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500)

Catering at the V&A's self-service restaurant is done with fresh ingredients, a respect for the sea-sons and some recipes that venture

beyond the domestic vernacular. There is a daily fresh soup and the cold table includes presentable salmon terrine and excellent salads. Sunday brunch, with jazz, is a

Sotheby's Cafe . 34-35 New Bond Street, WI (0171-408 5077)

Auction houses are, for rubberneckers, just free museums whose exhibitions are constantly chang-ing. Sotheby's has the added advantage of having a clubby little snackery, which does breakfast, hunch and tea with appropriate aplomb. The wine list is compiled by the head of the wine department, Serena Sutcliffe MW,

OUTSIDE LONDON Roman Baths Museum and

Pump Room, Bath Stall Street, Bath (01225 477785)

Waitresses nip about carrying pots of coffee, Bath buns and cinnamon biscuits. A winter hunch might include steak and kidney pie and treacle pudding. Local origins are guaranteed for Bath spa water. Bath sausages and homemade Bath biscuits — and some of the ses are local, too.

The Museum of Modern Art,

30, Pembroke Street, (01865 7227331

The MOMA case is, pleasingly, not as modern as the art - sofas and level tables mix with conventional dining furniture. The food is reheated as ordered and the menu. like the exhibitions, is eclectic, with reasonably priced dishes, very satisfactory sandwiches, a generous choice of cakes and puddings, and iced coffee and chocolate.

THERE are more good places to come. Diana Crighton, consultant to many museums and art galleries overhauling their catering, and whose book, English Excursions which Inspire and Refresh (Excursion Publishing, £8.95), celebrates some of the best, is currently involved in a project with the Geffrye Museum, Flackney, east London, which will shortly replace with a new restaurant what has hitherto been one of the saddest of

Queue! What a torture

And what better olace for an indoor park than in the middle of a city which is wet and cold for at least half of the year? We "take the rocket escalator to another dimension," and it feels good - the steep, long escalator ride to the apex of the Trocadero centre excites the senses. We are on the threshold of "a galaxy of futuristic experiences in one world".

The kids - there are 12 of them in our party - just cannot wait to encounter the Beast in Darkness. They push and crane their necks round every corner. Eventually, after a 45-minute wait in a queue, we reach its lair - dark but not terribly beastly. There is the occasional roar through some speakers and a few video screens showing a beast going about its daily routines. Then the floor becomes uneven. But the next bit had us all leaping out of our skins — a Segaperson jumped out on us from around a corner. An old trick, but a good one,

He put us on a ride. Now the kids were scared again. Where were they going? They fought to be with an adult. As our cart set off L recalled my first theme-park experience: the Black Hole at Disneyland, California, some 20 years ago. When that cart shot off into the dark, I could only scream out involuntary eaths as it hurtled round its impossible track. It was pure sensation, exhilaration. entertainment.

But the cart in the Beast's lair just trundled. The commentary said something like "the beast has escaped, it's going to get you". But my sweat glands were not activated, my pulse didn't miss a beat, my adrenalin pump failed to kick in. Matthew, aged 84, yawned. And that was The Beast in

Points: Futuricity: 1970s, Beastilness 1/10. Pulse Rate: 72 beats per minute. Screamometer: 0 decibels.

We skirted the Combat Zone, an arcade full of computer games, and arrived at our next queue for Aqua Planet, Acua Planet was worth the 45 minute wait. We were stranged into seats, and plunged headlong into a breathless journey. It was virtually real. Things jumped out from the screen, we ducked instinctively to avoid collisions. The illusion worked. It was old technol-ROBIN YOUNG | ogy - 3-D plastic specs, and tilting



Despite the flashy packaging and rooms packed with computer games, the attractions of Segaworld are a serious disappointment

seats - but as the brochure brags, "try telling your brain it's not real" Points: Excitement: 7/10. Fun: 8/10

We pass another hangar of computer games — Race Track — down a floor to Space Mission. Unfortunately it's mission impossible due to maintenance problems.

Points: Length of Kids' Faces: Very long. Robustness of Ride: 0/10 (it was only a few weeks old).

Down another level and we try to join the queue for Ghost Hunt. It's just malfunctioned so we have to wait five minutes before we can start to queue. The queue, once reached, is long, hot, boring and slow moving. You "try telling your brain it's not real" but this is no virtual queue. Over and above the malfunction, Ghost Hunt has technical problems. It's only working at half capacity.

Ghost Hunt is bizarre. You get in another cart on another train. You trundle round. Targets appear in front of you. You try to shoot them down. Its just like a regular amusement arcade machine, only you're in a cart. Weird.

Points: What was the point?

We spill out of Ghost Hunt to witness a now familiar vista: another sea of computer games, called The Carnival. We spot the next ride - The House of Grandish. The queue is posted as 30 minutes. It hardly moves, As we near the front, the reason becomes clear. This ride is shoebox-sized. It takes four people at a time, Each session takės 4½ minutes. As we crawl to the front of the queue, Segaworld is suddenly revealed to me as a glitzy con-trick.

"We anticipate that a true Segaworld experience will take four hours," so we arrived at 2pm for a 6pm departure. It is now 4.30, a Segaperson tells me that queues are over an hour downstairs, so we are going to miss out on three out of eight rides. That's two and a half hours of queues and malfunctions. punctuated by the (very) occasional thrill. A Segaperson tells me that queues are over an hour downstairs so "the wildest car chase of our life" gets the Denver boot.

The floor manager is summoned. Virtual tough luck, mate. Shouldn't

come at a busy time. As prickly as Sonic the Hedgehog.

I ask to see the Segaboss. Paul Smith, Operations Manager arrives. Yes it's very busy, but we are nowhere near our fire certificate capacity. We are the victims of our own success. If you've got a complaint write in on Monday. Some victim, some success. We, the customers, are the victims, it seems. While Segaworld counts the money, we stand in queues. Well I

have got a complaint - four, as it happens. Complaint number one is that you are sold something that Sega does not have the capacity to fulfil. But you've paid your money upfront. It's rather like paying in advance to get into a supermarket

shelves half-empty.

Complaint number two is the temperamental technology.

and then finding the most of the

Complaint number three is that the rides are a sideshow. The main space is devoted to playing computer games - acres of them. And complaint number four is that the future has sadly not

arrived. The rides are unimagina-

tive, largely old-tech. This is not how I understand interactive virtureality. There is little total immersion. You are not in control of much. Interactivity is confined to mindlessly bashing a fire button. You do not make choices, you do not interact with other people, you follow a set path. It all lacks sophistication.

l asked for a Sega comment on all this and I am told that when queues have developed pay machines have been put on freeplay. A team of engineers from Japan have been working to achieve a "100 per cent efficiency" which should reduce waiting. I am also told that Sega has the largest research and development department in its industry putting it "at the leading edge of virtual reality".

Let's hope 1997 is the year of the hedgehog.

JOHN TRIBE ● The author is senior lecturer in the Faculty of Leisure and Tourism. Buckinghamshire College. Segaworld, The Trocadero,

Piccadilly Circus, London (0171-734 2777); £12, children £9.

N EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

ILIXURY RELAIS & CHATEAUX BREAKS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

The Times in association with Relais & Châteaux seriers readers a rare opportunity to make substantial savings on short breaks at some of the best hotels on the other saccion the Atlantic Our exclusive list of Marking hotels includes five mentioned in Andrew

Harper's Hideonay Report for 1996, one of

A one-night stay includes dinner, break

fast, plus one option troper a one-hour

Blantyre, Massachusetts

1997 Saying 20%

Beatles

Abuey Min

tennis lesson, half bour massage, bicycles for the day or a two hour winery tour.
Rates: £365 per couple in a VIP suite, including tax and service Available until May 1, 1997, Mon-Tours salv. Saving £213.

ing, fitness centre, six-course dinners, tax

and service. Rates 1914 per couple for two

nights, not incl Fri & Sat Available until

wealthy and seasoned travellers. (They are indicated with an asterisk.) Each of our Times offers is highly individual, all

provide superb hospitality and are in luxurious surroundings. All costs are approximate and are based on the

exchange rate at the time of going to press.

Horned Dorset Primavera, Puerto Rico

The Inn at Blackberry Farm, Tennessee

Two night stay fischedes breakfast, lunch,

gourmet dinner horse and carriage ride,

Two-night stay includes dinner with wine, breakfast, museum tickes, service charges and taxes, plus upgrafie Kavailable, Rate £143 per person per night Available Seven meht stay in deluxe ocean view room includes half board, regional airport midweek between May 9, 1997-June 26, transfers, champagne on arrival, snorkelling and gourmet meals prepared by cheis from Daniel's in New York. Rates: Chateau du Sureau, California 1915 per person, plus 7% tax, 3% service Two-night stay includes champagne recepcharge: Available until November 4, 1997. tion, breakfast picnic lunch snowmobil-Saving: E140 per person per week

March 31, 1997 Saving approx 1244 fly fishing lesson. Rates: 1274 per night per Höme Ranch, Colorado couple, phis tax and service charge.

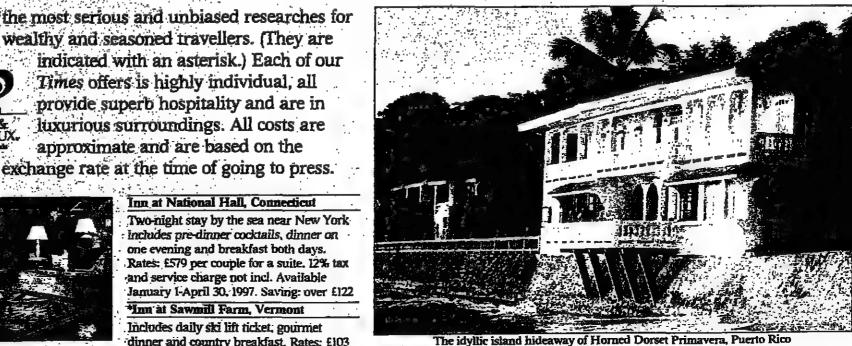
Available Jan 10 Mar 14, 1997, except Jan
12-15, Feb 11-12 & 20-21. At weekends, mini-Seven night full board stay includes six days of ski lift tickets, reg airport shuffles. ski areas shuttles, evening entertainment. mum stay two nights. Saving: 30% Rates: £823 per person, hased on double occupancy for standard category, plus 4% tax and 15% service charge. Available lan-5-March 30, 1997. Saving: £210 per person

Inn at National Hall, Connecticut Two-night stay by the sea near New York includes pre-dinner cocktails, dinner on one evening and breakfast both days. Rates: £579 per couple for a suite. 12% tax and service charge not incl. Available January 1-April 30, 1997. Saving: over £122 *Inn at Sawmill Farm, Vermont

> Includes daily ski lift ticket, gourmet dinner and country breakfast. Rates: £103 per person, based on double occupancy for standard category. Not incl 7% tax, 15% service charge. Not weekends. Available Jan 6-March 27, 1997. Saving 33%

Langdon Hall, Ontario, Canada Two-night stay includes dinner for two both nights, welcome gift. Rates: £212 per couple sharing a superior-deluxe double room. Service and 12% tax included. Available until April 30, 1997 except Dec 24, 1996-Feb.9, 1997. Saving: E74

Meadowood Resort, California Three night stay in the Napa Valley includes choice of four of the following: spa treatment, exercise or nutrition consultations, personal training session, golf, tennis or croquet lesson, fitness hike, bike tour. breakfast and wine tutor. Rates: £963 per



couple Sunday-Thursday, plus tax and service. Available until March 31, 1997,

except Dec 31-Jan 3, Saving: £305 Rancho de San Juan, New Mexico

Four-night minimum stay, Wed-Sat, includes gourmet dinner with wine, body massage and facial, herbal foot bath, guided tours of Indian pueblos and artists' studios. Rates: £854 per person sharing a double room, Available Jan 5-March 30. 1997. Saving: 30%

*Stonepine, Carmel, California

Five-night stay includes dinners, breakfasts, one activity per day, one day's golf fees and horse rental, taxes and gratuities. airport transfers by Rolls Royce. Rates: £1,067 per person sharing a double room,

incl taxes and service. Available until March 23, 1997, except Dec 30-Jan 28, 1997. not Fri & Sat: Saving: 50%

*Triple Creek Ranch, Montana

Six-night stay at a luxurious log or cedar cabin includes gourmet meals, snacks and alcoholic beverages, one day ski pass with transfers, horse riding, cross-country ski equipment, half a day snowmobile. Rates: £2,438 per couple, plus tax and gratuities. Available Jan 3-April 15, 1997. Saving: £274 Woodlands Resort, South Carolina

One-night package in 42 acres of wooded serenity includes hydrotherapy, massage. herbal wrap, facial and manicure, awardwinning five-course dinner with wine, breakfast, home made chocolates, use of bikes, heated pool, tennis courts, croquet lawn. Rates: £610 per couple, plus 5% tax and 18% service charge. Available until March 31, 1997. Saving: £244

TO MAKE A RESERVATION CALL: 0800 960 239 or FAX 0800 968 152 TO REQUEST A BROCHURE CALL: 0171 287 0987 or FAX 0171 437 0241

CHANGING TIMES

Working hard to fill that gap

AMONG my sons' favourite reading at this time of the year: the latest editions of Summer Jobs Abroad (E7.99). Teaching English Abroad (£9.99). with Summer Jobs in Britain (£7.99) a poor third. all from Vacation Work Publications and available from most bookshops.

Not the most exciting titles, but their contents are what all gap-year students' dreams are made of. Jobs listed include au pairs to work in Russia, cabin crew for the Hovercraft, tour escorts to accompany American choirs around Europe. working on organic farms in Ghana, rowing a replica Greek trireme in the Med, or cycling tourists round Oxford in a rickshaw.

In practice, despite many letters with CVs, photos and international reply coupons, my sons have found that individual employers rarely reply to their applications, but the information and organisations listed have proved valuable. Jobs to date include portering in London, teaching English in Lyons, waitering in Paris and entertain-ment work in the Caribbean.

Welcome 2000

JETSET's (0990 555757) Millennium 2000 brochure offers some novel ways to celebrate the arrival of the ways to celebrate the arrival of the 21st century: you could travel to Gisborne City in New Zealand, identified by scientists as the "first city to see the light" — a 14-day all-inclusive package leaving London on December 27, 1909, costs £2,490; or enjoy a double helping by partying first in Tonga on January 1, 2000, then fiving to Samoa across 2000, then flying to Samoa across the International Date Line, arriving there on December 31 and doing it all over again. The L2-night package (also with flights) costs from £2.499.

Turkish luxury

WHILE most tour operators trumpet low prices. Turkish specialist Savile (0171-625 3001) boasts the most costly programme in Europe, claiming standards and service to which every holidaymaker would like to become accustomed.

Hotels are exclusive and upmarket gulets (motor yachts) airconditioned, and extras can include limousines with English-speaking chauffeurs, champagne (French, not Turkish), and strawberries for your first alfresco breakfast.

The Club Savile in Kas, on the south coast, is a collection of luxury villas in landscaped gardens, with

CHECK-IN

TRAVEL

CONTINUED FROM

PAGE 14



MEL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Good life on the ocean wave: a minicruise in Turkey organised by Savile, a specialist in exclusive holidays

its own restaurant, pool and days out to a Lycian site on a yacht freely available for guests: from £419 per person in a group of eight, £439 each

At the Hotel Deniz in the resort of Gocek, prices are from £449-£539 for B&B. A private ferry shuttle is the only way to get to Savile's villas on the Limanagzi Peninsula, which also has a watersport centre. This should appeal to families with teenage children. The villas cost from £339 per person for a week.

Horse talk

NEW ADVENTURES from Arctic Experience (01737 218801) include Viking horse treks in Iceland, a country with more than 70,000 of the small, strong, sure-footed and

AIRPORT PARKING

pure-bred Icelandic horses (no horses have been imported since the

Viking days).
Packages for novice and experienced riders vary from a day's excursion from Reykjavik (from £33 to £96), to longer four to nine-night trails following the coastline of Snaefellsnes Peninsula (from £594). Flights cost extra, but can be arranged by the company.

Stylish places

CANARIES & MADEIRA

CONVERTED windmills and fishermen's cottages, beamed farms, village houses and Catalan gites are among the Iberian properties on offer from Individual Travellers (01798 869461), many of them in lesser-known regions such as Extramadura and Castille in Spain.

and Planicies and Montanhas in

Je y in 150

In the old Castilian village of Pastrana, a renovated 16th-century palace with a pool, which can house up to ten holidaymakers, costs £1,446-£2,590 to rent. A town house cleaning four in Bollanan particles sleeping four in Pollensa, northern Majorca, with shady terrace, splashpool and garden, costs £670-£1,100. Prices include two weeks' car hire, or ferry crossing for car and passengers, but not flights.

Great gardens

THE GUIDE Bed and Breakfast for Garden Lovers lists 82 private houses, comages, farmhouses, rectories and manors in Britain and northern France, where the hosts share their enthusiasm for gardens

ITALY

See Italy

and gardening with their guests. The D'Oyly Carte's family house in Devon, with 25 acres of National Trust sub-tropical gardens running down to the sea is included, costing from £28.50 to £40 per person per night; and the 1995 award-winning garden of a Georgian town house in Richmond, Yorkshire, costing £25 per person per night.

Copies of the guide are available from BBGL. Handywater Farm, Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxfordshire OXIS SAE (send a 22cmxlicm SAE with four first-class stamps).

High notes

MUSIC holidays, including tickets for The Hague Brahms Festival in April and May, are offered by Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333). Flight to Amsterdam, train transfer to The Hague, two nights hotel B&B and a ficket to the concert are included in the price of £344, as well as museum and exhibition tickets and a two-day bus pass.

For fine art

TWENTY art, history, architecture and garden tours have been launched by Page & Moy (0116-250 7747); the Castles and Painted Monasteries of Romania is a ninenight tour costing £365, visiting Dracula country, Transylvania and the Carpathians, as well as Bucha-rest and the Monastery of Apapia.

An eight-night tour in March visits the Byzantine Art Exhibition and other New York collections, led by the British Museum's Rowena Loverance and costing £1,145.

Cook's tour

INSTRUCTION from the likes of Alastair Little, Anthony Worrall-Thompson and Sophie Grigson. and trips, tours and tastings are on the menu of week-long cookery holidays in Italy and Spain organised by Tasting Places (017)-229 7020). Courses are closely linked to the season and the produce of individual regions: truffles and wild mushrooms in Tuscany, for example, seafood in Sicily, risottos in the Veneto.

A week based at La Foresteria near Verona, owned by the Dante family since 1353, with hands-on instruction from Mauro Bregoli and visits to the Soave vineyards and Venice, costs £1,225.

Alastair Little presides at La Cacciata in Orvieto, Umbria, a working farm noted for its extravirgin olive oil and its wine. A week's course costs £925 for tuition, accommodation, food, wine and trips, but not flights.

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TURKEY

Cut-price cloth of gold

INSIDER'S

GUIDE TO

his week, while the bourgeoisie are buying crocodile evening bags at Lancel, and Pierre Cardin silk ties in the Galeries Lafayette, Insider's Paris discovers the exotica of cut-price Paris in Barbes-Rochechouart. Just one Métro stop past the Gare du Nord is a warren of stores and markets - probably the only place in this expensive city where you could complete your entire Christ-

mas shopping for under £20. Although the jewel of Boulevard Rochechouart is the Tati department store, its pinkchecked plastic bags the very symbol of economy and tat. the area also has

Algerian and African shops selling everything from outlandish dress materials to gilt-etched glasses for mint tea. A few steps up the hill towards the Sacré Coeur are the city's best discount fabric Marché St Pierre.

As you emerge into the bustle and madness above the Metro, men compete to hand you slips of paper: "Professor Kaba, celebrated medium and seer," said one. Helps those who have need of high magic. Love, Money, Health, Protection assured against enemies, exams, business difficulties.

100 per cent success in births.

Receives visitors seven days a

week, 9am to 9pm." Before you can even contemplate putting a curse on someone, the crowd's momentum whisks you into Tati, with boxes of toy tractors and Barbie dolls piled high, acres of women's clothes for under £10. Among the rubbish are turquoise and yellow glazed Moroccan vases and plates for Fr50, and Chanel-style chain belts in silver or tortoiseshell for Fr39. With a sharp eye, coupled with sharp elbows, you may even reach the cash desk. This is not a place to come overdressed or with a fancy handbag - a little care

is required to avoid becoming

For clothes, many students

a target for pickpockets.

vard Barbes, with new and second-hand items costing under Fr50. Magazine stylists come here for little 1970sinspired numbers. This area is known as "la Goutte d'Or", the drop of gold, after the hill which produced fine wine in the Middle Ages. Now the Rue de la Goutte d'Or trades in gold and silver fabrics. richly embroidered velvets, and wedding shoes crunchy with sequins and glitter. The next street up. Rue des Poissonières, is full of African cloth and spices, and turbanned customers dressed more for

the bazaar than the Paris streets. The shops sell Moroccan teapots and "African Pride Castor and Mink Oil" hair pomade.

Five minutes up the hill towards the Sacre Coeur is the Place St Pierre. Every fabric found in the centre of Paris with a Fr500-ametre price tag is here with the zero

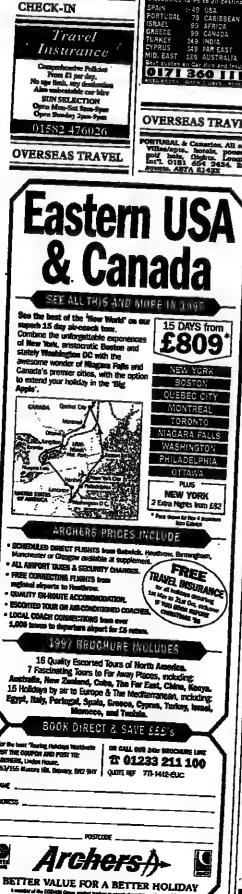
knocked off. All those grand woven upholstery fabrics found on Louis-something chairs are here, as are toiles de jouy - cream materi-al printed with bucolic scenes. This is where the clever Parisian clothes her home.

Stores such as Reine, Moline and Dreyfus have bales of material pouring from their doors into the street. The cheap stuff at Fr20 a metre is usually on the ground floor. but other bargains of wonderful quality are upstairs. Dreyfus had Provençal fabrics. with olive and lemon patterns on blue or yellow backgrounds for Fr29, and Moline had slightly more up-market versions for Pr49.

KATE MUIR

Life-Live, new artists and sculptors from Britain, in 1996, Musée d'Art Moderne, 11 Avenue du President Wilson, 8th (53 67 40 00), until Jan 5.

Peter Beard's Africa photographs, sketchbooks and writings from 30 years in Kenya. Centre Nationale de la Photographie, 11 Rue Berryer, 8th. (53 76 12 31), until Jan 20.





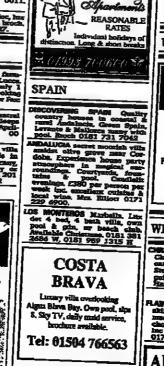


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by Raymond Keene

erhaps the event of the year for critish chess was Matthew adier's gold medal in the Erevan)lympiad in the autumn. In the The hovember issue of the British has Magazine, he recounts his atraordinarily detailed preparation, which was not just confined to the analysis of chess moves. I decided that it might be usetellul to get a small feel of Armenia efore I went, and my prepar-tion was menculous. I bought

*CDs of Armenian classical and horal music, I learnt the count a lustian alphabet. I even bought a cussian cookbook and made my broducing Armenian stews and Kazhakstan dried fruit tarts. io I was ready: I could eat Ar-nenian, read Armenian, sing Armenian .

The English team performance vas good, if not brilliant. Seeded second, England came in joint hird, but missed the bronze nedals on tie-break.

As so often in the past, the English team was generously supported by the merchant bank Duncan Lawrie, which helped to ensure that the strongest possible side turned out. Here is a sample of Sadler's

incisive play. White: Janjgava Black: Sadler



Black has sacrificed a pawn, but his bishop is active and he has pressure against White's king. 22...Rg6 23 Nel. It is better to reinforce his third rank with 23

23 . . . Rh8 24 Qe4. The variation 24 Qc3 Bxg2 25 Nxg2 Qe4 26 f3 Qe2 shows the dangers White is facing.

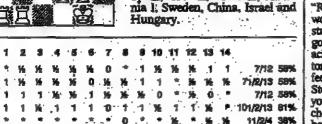
Rxb2 25 Off Bxd3 27 Qd2 Re3 Kh7 29 a5 Qe4 26 13 28 Ra1 30 Rd2

The pressure has become too much and White now collapses 31 Nxf3 Oxal - 32 Kh2 Ra3 and Black won in 41 moves.

Chess for Charity
On Saturday March 22, I shall be
taking on all-comers in a simultaneous display at St George's Hospital, Tooing, to raise funds for the hospital's Hold My Hand appeal, which aims to raise II million for the children's intersive care unit. Details and entry form are available from Lucy De Ville, The Appeal Office, St George's Hospital, London SWI7. Telephone 0181 725 5096.

English Olympiad Results

The chart below shows the English individual scores in the Erevan Olympiad. In any round, four of the six players are involved I indicates a win, 2 is a draw and 0 a loss. If a player did not play in any particular round, that is indicated by *. There were fourteen rounds, each of them indicated by a number at the top of the chart. For purposes of cross-reference, England played against Indonesia in round I, Denmark in round 2, Latvia in round 3, then against Romania, Holland, Georgia, Spain, Croatia, Vietnam, Arme-



from the game Botvinnik Stepanov, USSR 1931;
This early middlegame position looks harmless enough but, in mixifact, White has an immediate . 'malowin. Can you spot it?

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is.

Hadgean

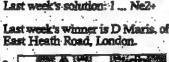
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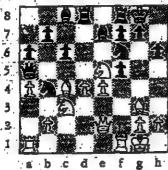
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ally stage of the

NAME OF

Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription 3 to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-inthe Strand. The answer will be _published next Saturday.





READERS are invited to

write an amusing caption for the cartion (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced with permission from Westmington Liberature) from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The carsoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption from those submined.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (30), Weekend Games Page. The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 18.





"It's Sir Nicholas! He's been on the antibiotics again'

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by James G. Moore of Liverpool

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE MACALLAN International Pairs takes place at the end of January. It is the best-known and most prestigious of the invitation pairs events. Several current world champions are among the 16 pairs who will be playing.

An innovation for the 1997 event is that no complicated systems will be allowed, which should make some of the bidding more comprehensible. It will suit Andrew Robson and Tony Forrester, past winners of the event - they play simple methods even when the full works are allowed. This is a hand Robson played in a big event in Holland earlier this year.

+94 +0j65 +Ak63 +AQ3 N W E	+J1032 +742 +95 +J985
*AKQ	
▼ AKS	
♦ J872	
⊕ K72	
	♥ OJ65 ◆AK63 ◆AQ3 N W E S ◆AKQ ▼AKS ◆J872

Contract: 7NT by South; lead ; ten of hearts

You can't get a much simpler auction than that, although Seven No-Trumps is a poor contract. With twelve tricks on top the only chance of a thirteenth seems to be the queen of diamonds falling in two rounds of the suit. But before testing that Robson played off four rounds of hearts.

The fourth heart gave East a problem. It looked dangerous to throw from either four-card suit it might allow declarer to make a fourth trick in that suit, if he held four of it in his hand. To postpone a black-suit decision, East threw the five of diamonds.

Robson drew the correct inference from this discard. East would have discarded from a black suit if he had five; hence his shape had to be four spades, three hearts, four clubs and therefore two diamonds.

It seemed unlikely that East would throw a diamond from Qx. That meant the only chance was that he had discarded from 9x or 10x. So Robson crossed to the ace of spades and led the jack of diamonds. West covered with the queen, dummy's king won the trick and East had to play the nine. Robson returned to the king of spades and led the eight of dia-monds, running it when West followed low. Now he had 14 tricks. The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1997. in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, from Wednesday January 22 to Friday 24.

Session times and prices; Wednesday, 5.30-11pm, £12.50; Thursday, noon-ipm, £12.50; Thursday, 5.30-lipm, £12.50; Thursday, full day, £20; Friday, 12.30-6.30pm, £17.50; All-session season ticket, £35. Tickets available from the

Macallan box office, 31 Queen's Road, Mortlake, London SW14 SPH. Information 0181-878 5844.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard
PROCATARCTIC

a. A flogging at Winchester

a. The Arctic approaches b. The immediate cause

C. A Showcar

ROCOUET

C. A lizard

h. A pelota basket

a. A type of brickwork

b. In testudo formation

c. With spots and blotches

b. A sitting platform c. A piebald donkey

PYCNOSTYLE

a. Close columns

"REDUCE wear and tear on your work clothes by 20 per cent by staying in bed on Mondays and not going to work." Or, "Avoid back-ache from bending down to pick tomatoes. Simply dig a trench four feet deep alongside your plants. Step into the trench and you'll find your tomatoes are conveniently at chest height." Here's another, "A banana skin makes an ideal sun hat for a starfish."

If your prefer a motoring spin. "Feel like a million dollars next time you arrive home by glueing rice crispies onto your car tyres. When you park it will sound as if you are rolling up on an expensive gravel drive." Or, "Save having to buy expensive personalised number plaies by simply changing your name to match your existing plate.

Mr KVL 741Y of Lincoln."

Such ludicrous Top Tips are redeeming features of the Viz comics, a collection of which form the basis of Viz PC CD-Romtiddily-om-pom...pom! pem!, which loads each time you turn on the computer with a daily Viz Top Tip or Crap Joke. There are 365 corny entries in all:

few are politically correct and many are extremely lavatorial. Viz. has a reputation for blatantly atrociously. The sole benefit of the

promoting its spin-offs as underiably crass and Telstar's Viz title gets the same treatment, accurately calling it a "romp through a few old jokes from past issues". The Viz title is not for sale to

children but they might like another Telstar CD-Rom, the Zig & Zag ZZ Rom screensaver featuring the anarchic stars of Channel 4's Big Breakfast. The puppets burst onto the screen with irreverent musical interludes or familiar insults, such as their catchphrase "You stink, missus!". Neither title stinks and would make reasonable stocking fillers — though you'd be disappointed to unwrap them as your main

present on the big day. For a real stinker there is Santa's Animated Workshop from Pentactive - a title with only one good thing going for it. Running straight from the disc, this is a tedious advent calendar which reveals Santa and ever more dull little helpers up to Christmas Eve.

The picture and interactive effects are miserable while the 13 or so Christmas songs are performed



The AST Advantage computer worth £2,799 is top prize in our competition

title is the 50p per disc sold which Pentactive promises to donate to the NSPCC Sprinkle a little timely magic into

your computer with Data Becker's Christmas Printshop, a Windows CD-Rom for designing and print-ing festive cards, gift tags and faxes. It also features some minor seasonal screensavers. Computer Games and Pastimes now dons

white beard and red Crimplene suit to announce details of Cyberspace Twenty Nine - with a terrific star prize of a state-of-the-art AST Advantage computer worth £2,799. Not only that, three runners-up will scoop consolation prizes of Psion's latest Siena palmtop worth £229.

The AST Advantage 9306 is a definitive gaming machine with a list of impressive specifications which could make a grown "anorak" cry. In fact, call the AST technical line and tell them you own this model and you'll hear them openly drool at the other end. The package boasts a powerful 200 MHz Intel Pentium processor, 32 Mb EDO Ram, cavernous 3Gb

hard-disc, full-screen smooth MPEG playback, eight-speed CD-Rom drive, pounding sub-woofer speakers and generous 17in highresolution colour monitor.

A DSVD modem means you can play games with other remote users and talk to them at the same time and the computer also comes complete with a Wingman Extreme joystick, Windows 95 pre-installed and a software bundle of 11 titles

including Quicken, Compuserve, Actua-Soccer. The Muppets and Whiplash. No less impressive are the Psion Sienas we have for our runners-up. Also top-of-the-range products, the organisers have a full IMB memory and are palmtops which actually live up to their promise — being small and light enough to slip into a shirt pocket. The Siena is a mighty machine lurking in its slim, sleek package, boasting many of the same solid features as Psion's big brother Series 3 models.

Cyberspace Twenty Nine is open to readers of all ages. All you have to do is come up with a Top Tip of your own with computer users in mind - the more ridiculous or outlandish the better. Send your entry - with your name, age, address and home telephone number - on a postcard to: Cyberspace Twenty-Nine, Computer Games & Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, London El 9XN, Your entry must reach us by Tuesday January 7. 1997 and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

"Make your own glitter this Christmas by wrapping grains of salt in kitchen foil." Top Tip from Viz PC CD-Rom-tiddily-om-pom-...pom! pom!.

No 965

Multi-gallon bottle (8). Armour; post (4) (Persian) sorcerer (5) 10 Delicate stonework in eg. window (7)

11 Part exchange (5.2) 12 Stunted person (5) 13 Gummy; with no power (9) 18 Browned bread (5) 20 Artist's egg/pigment emulsion (7)

(7) 23 Constellation, has Belt (5) 24 Soft feathers (4)

22 Leontes' daughter (W. Tale) 25 With gusting wind (8)

DOWN 1 Reduce in rank (6) 2 One settling in new country

Father of David; type of church window (5) Close to catching (3,2,3,5) Competition ring (5) 7 Leave alone; sack (staff)

8 Lag behind (6) 14 Acquire (6) 15 Germ-free (7) 16 Unintelligent (6) 17 Elegant: fastidious (6)

19 Missile, direction indicator 21 Parts of verb; states of emo-

tion (5) SOLUTION TO NO 964 ACROSS: 5 Regale 7 Hamper -9 Sanskrit 11.Pfug 12 Skein: 13 Emblem 15 Ignore 17 Local 19 Zoom 20 Aqueduct 22 Repeal.

DOWN: 1 Crisis 2 Dear 3 Rhythm 4 Drug 6 Ginger group S Pollen count 10 Kendo 14 Bilge 16 Really 18 Litary 19 Zero

8 Pollen comit 10 kethod 14 buge 16 kearly 16 clashy 19 cets
21 Urdu
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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3388: No-no by Obiter

THE UNCLUED lights are not in the correct order. They all contain two words (hyphens being ignored) except one which contains four. Nine across and twelve down ches are normal, but their answers are to be treated thematically, one way or another, to give a different word which is to be entered. The remaining clues are similarly treated, sometimes accompa-nied by changes in punctuation and/or the gaps between words. Their answers are to be entered untreated.

AEROSS

about vice.

and force.

Time secret police returned to ascend. Forgot thanks for posh car in dingy colour. They make music and love in Spain riotously.

A lad's caging of the birds. Good gardeners like to see the list ordered. 16 "Ants", he observed cariously. "move quickly". Ports wherein people would dwell. Saint expressed enaggerated feeling - not halfl -

Aerobatic manoeuvre after which traveller returned for toilet paper. Filleted sole's been halfheartedly cooked. Having left stronghold on high ground, makes a 29

in ancient parlance, "Come thee nigh newly to The inventor's back, the game's over. 34 In Iroquois language, change of scene needed.

Surpid dope's puzzled longer. Matters of importance to leaders of Young Having very little to spend around the North divides

England there. Jumping on sessile animals. Insisted on the tripe being rehashed. 49

43 May, in June, cast out lunar module.

Nodule of iron still formed, for example, with energy

Any people out of control may come to riot. Went wrong with logic circuit on a constant mesh.

People from whom a jury is drawn step round. Wandering upon Sweden's crags. Alternative to practices in imprisonment is essential

with missing keys. May be fine day without turbulent air. Caesar's in English promontory giving a frenetic

Higgledy-piggledy or in a long endless chain. Drive and get on as a rule. Have got in to replicate chemical inhibiting differentiation With knots tied finally, noose is twisted.

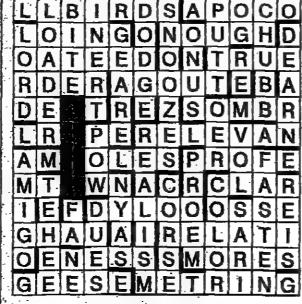
Not in any way a dramatic performance of "Little Women". Plant assumed to be adapted not having died in

Certainly, if it were over after 1'd left, you'd find the game up.
Wise perhaps, without independence, to yearn Hairy-legged creature displays old article it brought

Making plans strewn round church randomly at Shilling tips for those prying into others' affairs

Not anybody runs in activity during lunch-break. Pros treated hapless fellow with skin disease. As I would describe these chaps in London it seems. See moon's affected an unspecified person. Girl that makes hotel messenger there unhappy.

Ages in a queue about the beginning of March? Having hurried carrying this jewellery puts foot Baggage-wagon fallen empty, it's our turn to fill it.



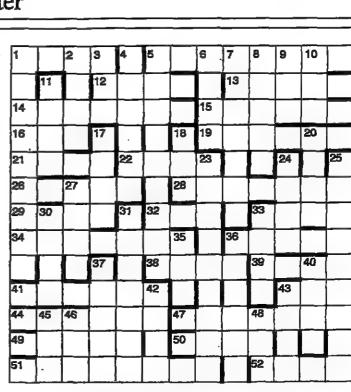
Solution to No 3385: A showbiz addiction

Letters removed from beginnings and ends of across solutions made up items removed in a strip-tease. The final item was not removed.

Line 1 : CA/PE Line 2 : HA/T Line 3 : G/LOVES Line 5: BOL/ERO Line 6 : BEL/T Line 7: DRE/SS Line 8 : BOO/IS Line 9: GAR/TER Line ID: NYL/ONS Line II: BAS/QUE Line II: GEES/TRING

Redundant words in down closs made up the phrase: THEY ARE EXTREMELY HABIT-FORMING The place where the puzzle was researched was SOHO

The winger is Robert Bridge of Landon. The runners up are Mr and Mrs M.R. Bond of Chesterton, Cambridge and Roger Naylor of Bradford



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3388

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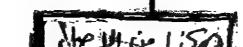
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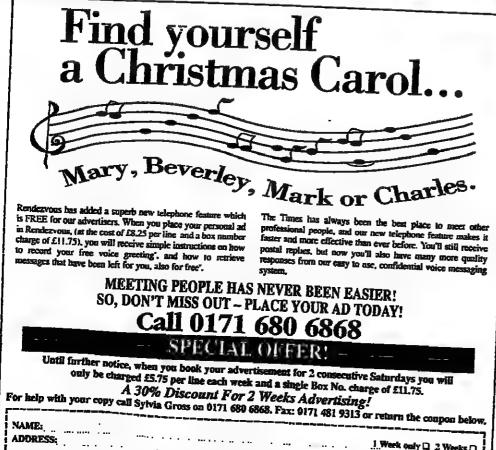
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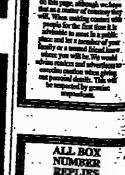


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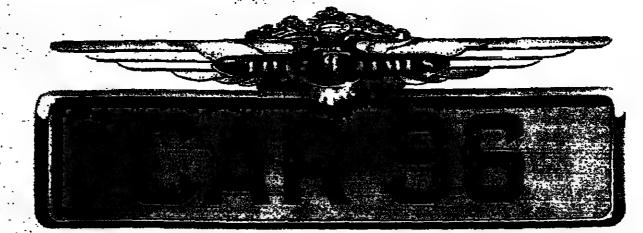
Octorials .

anay,



Steering to Christmas gifts for wheel enthusiasts

Page 3



Unbeatable **Beetles** come back to Britain



SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 1996



Renault has fitted stowage space into the dashboard which turns the traditional binnacle into a wardrobe; an astonishing 33 litres of space covered by a cantilevered door which opens to leave enough room for a briefcase or sweater

Death of the aasnboara

I's gone. Stare through the spokes of the steering wheel in search of comforting dials and digits and there is nothing to see but the black rubber of a coin tray. Outstretch a hand to press and prod buttons for the radio or heater and there is nothing, just the gaping maw of a glovebox the size of a suitcase.

TO WASHINGS Rental of British

49.65%

De articlista - pater

L. V.

Renault has abolished the dashboard. Before your very eyes, designers of the new Espace have introduced the biggest change since introduced the biggest change since planeer motorists discovered a circular dial could tell them they were breaking the speed fifther for generations, cars have fishely boards with clock faces and a comforting array of buttons and switches within reach. The trainfornal layout, which puts his speed ometer, rev counter, warning and information lights directly till the driver's eyeline, has been swept

driver's eyeline, has been swept away, replaced by a funnissic, information pod.

The pod, with its flashing lights and rolling digital information will be alien to millions of instructions. used to watching the needle wind-ing round a familiar clockface style speedo. But this is a car that will be increasingly bought by the Liternet generation, reared on computers with flashing screens and coded messages. They will easily grasp the concept. the concept.

The pod sits between the driver and passenger, flashing up the speed readout in big, yellow digits along with information such as whether the headlights are on and which radio channel is playing; all displayed so that everyone in the Espace can see it.

Renault's MPV revamp rings

revolutionary changes by

abolishing dials, Kevin Eason sees

-the fascia of things to come

passengers are as likely to be operating the stereo as the driver. Don't bother to look for the radio in the Espace because it is not there. The dashboard has not a button to press nor a knob to twiddle: the radio is hidden deep in the car's bowels, out of sight and τeach, the only control through the driver's stalk and the remote handset.

hat gives back-seat drivers their first taste of power.
Instead of administering an ear-bashing to the longsuffering driver to change the radio
station or choose another track. they can do it themselves. The handset gives them power to switch from radio to compact-disc player, alter bass and treble, similar to changing the television channels at home with the remote, simply beaming their instructions to a sensor in the roof lining. That is the good news for passengers; the bad news is that the driver has a steering wheel with an overide so

that the captain of the Starship Espace remains in control. All other controls — wipers and

lights — are on steering wheel stalks; the beater controls located on a tiny binnacle by the A-pillar, a separate control in front of the passenger. Which leaves a

hage expanse waiting to be filled — and it has been, ingeniously, by Renault's design team. They have fitted stowage space into the dashboard which turns the traditional

glovebox into a wardrobe: an asionishing 33 litres of space covered by a cantilevered door which opens down and out with room for a briefcase, a sweater - even a small child in desperate circumstances. In fact, the Espace is covered in

clever cubby holes with seemingly more drawers and shelves than in the whole of my house under the seats, in the doors, in the roof — the scope for lost sunglasses, errant handbags, the usual trials of any normal family, will be endless. Clearly, Renault's designers have

given much thought to the Espace's interior in a huge effort to separate the vehicle from the rest of the people-carrying pack. And they needed to, for the

Espace has fallen from grace in the past few years as the market for people-carriers, multi-purpose vehicles — call them what you will has become congested by the launch of around a dozen new models with two more big players

HIM

to come over the next few months: Mercedes-Benz with its V-class and Chrysler, which is bringing its best-selling Voyager from the US. When the Espace was launched

in 1984, it was a one-off, the only vehicle of its type in Europe and a unique concept the single box known as a monospace — which could provide seats for seven people. Even up to a couple of years ago, it was the definitive MPV, accounting for as much as half of all UK sales. Remainly has not only turned the Espace fascia into a huge glovebox, it has banded control brake horse power 2-litre, a 2.2 arbo-diesel and the range-topping 170hhp 3-litre Vb. Around half of sales will be of the diesel version. of the radio to the passengers, via a remote handset (inset left). Traditional

clocks and dials are lost in the £310 million That dominance has been crushed by the entry of Ford, whose Galaxy will account for 35 per cent of sales this year, followed by the Volkswagen Sharan (13 per cent), Toyota Previa (11 per cent) . . . then

A bit ratily on start-up, the diesel cruises well in a straight line and the digital fuel gauge seemed as though it was stuck, so long did it refuse to budge. The official consumption figures seem a little on the mean side at an average 35 miles to the gallon, but driving with a light right foot obviously brings the Espace (9 per cent). The Espace will never be able command the rewards. Remault claims that im-provements mean a 5-10 per cent improvement in fuel economy across the range. The 2-litre was not available for test this week. field again, but from March, when the new version goes on sale, it will present an impressive new face, thanks to a £310 million revamp. However, the V6 was - and turned Styling remains essentially the familiar Espace, but Renault has out to be a disappointment. It seemed oddly lethargic and under-

mile test drive.

rounded off the face and integrated

wing mirrors to make the vehicle

The vehicle will arrive in Britain

with a choice of three engines: a 115

which is fortunate because it could

be the most competent package

according to evidence from a 300-

sleeker than its competitors.

powered though smooth. It comes with automatic transmission only, a new four-speed operated through a stalk which pokes out from behind the steering wheel and was notchy and difficult to use, though

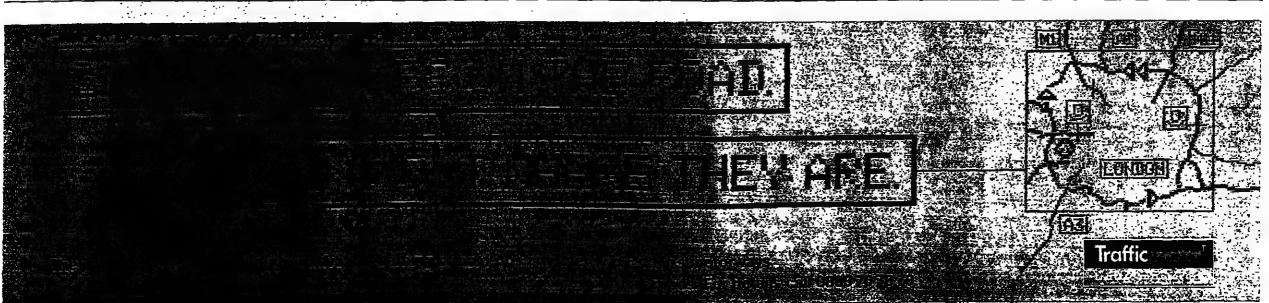
The turning circle is tight, just and the ride is pleasantly comfortable - as I can confirm after a punishing two days in the Espace over a long, long distance.

owever, the quality of the drive will be sub-merged by admiration for the interior among most buyers. Renault has introduced floor rails for easier movement of new, lighter seats. Renault claims owners will be able to indulge their letish for forniture movement with a possible, if some-what astonishing, 352 combina-tions of seat position. Now that could keep the kids amused on a wet Sunday afternoon when the picnic has just been called off.

While nobody but a maniac will want to test the theory, it does at least underline Renault's determination that the Espace brings something new to a segment in which buyers have more choice than ever before.

With prices between £18,000 and £27,000, the French seem content to give up sales leadership in ex-change for leadership in engineer-ing and design. By and large, they have succeeded with attention to detail and innovation . . . except for the string.

They haven't included a length of string, potentially the single most important accessory Renault will need to stock. You see, they forgot what happens at home when the kids use the remote for the telly: it gets lost for a formight, stuffed deep down the back of a cushion, kicked under the sofa or tucked inadvertently into a sweater. So when the nation's children are let loose on the Espace radio handset from their back seats, the only way ever to guarantee you can find it each trip is to attach the remote to a piece of string nailed to the dashboard, Note to Renault: no charge for that piece of design advice.



What about the drug-drivers?

The Christmas spirit was notably absent in north Devon this week when a brewery lorry overturned and left the injured driver hanging upside down in his cab. Naturally. other motorists rushed to the scene. They loaded their cars with booze and left.

Lest you become too despondent at this example of greed overcoming compassion I should point out that news can be defined as something happening today that did not happen yesterday and which is unlikely to happen tomorrow. And someone must have done the right thing, or the driver happily only slightly injured — would still be hanging there.

It seems a safe bet that people who can ignore someone in trouble in favour of stocking up with drink will not be taking much notice of



Barnard

seasonal drink-drive campaign, so we can expect the usual madness, although our attitude towards drink-driving has improved enormously over the years. Several police forces are running campaigns this Christmas aimed

at the hard core of drivers who still

drink too much. Indeed the one weakness of the otherwise powerful television drink-drive video is that, once again, it features a young victim whereas it is the middle-aged who need the shock treatment. Young people I know, including my daughters and their friends, do not drink at all when they are driving, whereas I regard a pint of beer or a couple of glasses of wine as being "safe"

This is mere self-delusion of course. When, sorry, if, Labour wins the next election it plans to reduce the allowable alcohol level in blood and I believe that within a few years that level be will be down to zero: at least then we shall all know where we stand

problem is by no means confined But the curtailment of alcohol as a driving risk will not be the end of the threat from drugs. Research by Strathclyde University has shown

that drugs other than alcohol may have been a factor in 20 per cent of accidents. The legislation includes the phrase "while under the influence of drink or drugs" and the

to illicit material. There is evidence that women are particularly vulnerable, as they tend to take more tranquillis-

ers and anti-depressants than do men (you cannot imagine why? Nor me). But the notion that alcohol is the only legal drug that affects driving is so entrenched that people often ignore the dangers of other drugs, even though GPs usually warn patients about the risk and the labels should carry

In Sweden, police officers are trained to gaze into people's eyes to see the signs of drug use. This sounds like too intimate a procedure for the British, so we shall have to think of something else. Random testing is part of the answer. To hell with civil liberties: random tests are far better, and a lot more honest, than the police

spotting erratic driving or flickering rear lights.

oor air quality, fog. frost, drizzle, dark afternoons. This week's weather in most of the country hasmade driving difficult enough without the related fact that mucky conditions lead to mucky road signs. Local authorities are mostly on the ball when road surfaces get icy, but why aren't they doing anything about other hazards?

Direction signs and bollards in the middle of the road are the main problem. Many direction signs are so covered in grime they are unreadable, increasing the chances of rear-end shuts asdrivers peer through the gloom trying to decode information.

Bollards, notionally edged inwhite or yellow to make them visible, are now edged in soot black or battleship grey, thus making them all but invisible. Even obstructions which carry reflectors become lethal rather than useful as grime obscures the plastic lenses.

Perhaps the oddballs offering to clean our windscreens could be hired to turn their chamois in a

Back to school for drinkers



ON COURSE

■ DRINK-drive road deaths have reduced dramatically, though last year there were still 580 fatalities. Twenty per cent of drivers or motorcyclists killed in 1995 were found to be over the limit.

THE rehabilitation experiment has been extended for two years and will spread around the country, allowing magistrates to refer more drinkdrivers to classes.

■ DRIVERS who complete the course can apply to have their period of disqualification cut by up to 25 per cent. In Medway and Maidstone the fee a participant is required to pay is dicrated by the magistrates. It can vary from £60 to £200.

THERE'S NOTHING NEW ABOUT HYBRIDS

IN 1933 THE ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING

THE 1905 INTERUREAN HAD

INTERCHANGEABLE PETROL

AND ELECTRIC MOTORS

VISIONARY BUCKMINSTER FULLER

BIRLT A SAFETY CAR CALLED THE

DYMOXION, BUT UNFORTUNITELY

IT CRASHED KILLING 17'S

PASSANGERS ..

AUTOFAX

was a mistake that he was to rue for a long time. His story is a lesson to drivers who need to know that one drink too far, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant, can lead to anguish, embarrassment and

even the loss of their jobs. Although Government campaigns centre around the death and destruction of drink-driving. Bailey's story will probably strike as much terror into the hearts of motorists whose offence is more blunder than crime but who are tarnished in the same way as offenders who kill and maim when many times over the limit

For one indiscretion, Bailey. a respectable businessman was labelled a criminal and had to go through rehabilitation to try to win his licence back. Bailey, who is 34, married with a child, is a manager with a healthcare company who plays a mean game of squash. After a fast game one evening, he relaxed with a pint of lager with his chums at his

by David Long and Les Evans

James Luckhurst asks if a class

that helps convicted drink-drivers get back on the road is either

education or punishment

sports club in South London. The blandishment to have "just one more" was to cost him his licence. On his way home, he ran into a roadside checkpoint set up by the police. He was breath tested and gave a

positive result. "It was the start of a nightmare, and the process of being arrested scared the pants off me," says Bailey. At the police station, he gave two breath tests, each showing 47 micrograms of alcohol, only 12 micrograms - tiny beads of breath -- over the police limit, but the difference between

being officially sober and officially drunk. Even the police seemed sympathetic over his predicament "The police officers were

courteous to the point where

ERIC FERNIHOUGH, THE LAS

ENGLISHMAN TO HOLD THE

MOTORCHILE WORLD SPE

THE 1956 ZUNDARP JANUS

RECORD, DIED ON

St. GEORGESDAY, 1938

WAS NAMED AFTER THE

TWO-FACED ROMAN GOD

BECAUSE ITS BACK SEAT

Looked READWARDS

the woman police officer who arrested me actually dropped me at home when the paper-

work had been completed." it took two months for Bailey to be charged. After being stopped in May, he did not appear in court until September, a "ridiculously long time", he says.
"It seems that if you're well

over the limit, they deal with you pretty quickly but it was a very long three months for me, during which time I had no idea whether I would keep my job or not." The court appearance, which resulted in a year's ban and £250 fine, was no less scary.

There was, however, a lifeline he didn't expect. On the way out of the court, the clerk handed him a leaflet with details of a rehabilitation

course. It meant paying £200, but Bailey would be eligible to have his licence back three months early.

Magistrates agreed to refer him to the Kent Probation Service, which run schemes in the Medway and Maidstone areas. The success of the courses means magistrates want it extended across the country, says Dick Whitfield, Kent's chief probation officer. He adds: "Statistics from the

Transport Research Laboratory prove that the scheme works and this is backed up by the minimal reconviction rate we have encountered in Kent. Paying up to £200 to attend

a two-and-a-half-hour group session every week for eight weeks could seem to be further punishment. But the fact is that convicted drink-drivers only attend if they want to. The courts might offer the scheme but they're not obliged to take it. It's an excellent scheme that really works. Since we launched it three years ago, we have had 418 candidates successfully complete the course

with just two of these re-offending." Bailey believes the course was a punishment. "It is a big commitment not only for me, but for everyone involved in giving me lifts each week. I've learned a lot but I've also felt we could cover the issues thoroughly in a shorter time. For example, every participant has to keep a daily drink diary. We compare notes at the beginning of each session. In the early stages it was useful. but there's a limit to how surprised you can be when your diary reveals a large intake on a Friday night."

Bailey was lucky: he kept his

job and will get his company car back. Although for many convicted drink drivers, the task of getting insurance becomes a nightmare when they return to the road, unable to get quotes at all from the stricter companies while others demand huge premiums. A rehabilitation course could mean discounts of 35 to 50 per cent from brokers or insurers

co-operating with the venture.

However, Bailey is sobered and embittered by the experience, like thousands more. He adds: "I suppose it's easy to be wise after the event but sometimes I object to the stigma that's attached to a drink-drive COnviction "

"I sit in the passenger seat of my wife's or a friend's car and watch one driver after another doing absolutely stupid things on the motorway. Nose to tail at 90 miles an hour, sudden changes of lane and lastminute overtaking: I can't help but feel that these drivers need some sort of rehabilitation scheme as well."

See letters, p19

THE LIMIT

■ DRIVERS who fail a roadside breath test take a more accurate breath test at the station.

The limit is 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100ml of breath.

Then a blood test will be asked for: the legal limit is 80 milligrammes of alcohol per 100ml of blood.

LONDON A406 East Finchiey single lane on the North Circular

A406 Upper Edmontor; major roadworks over the Lea Vailey Viaduct: A3 Kingsten; northbound lene closure. A302 Westminster; work on Victoria street at the junction with Great Smith Street and Broad Sanctuary. A217 Wendsworth: roadworks on south side of

andsworth Bridge. A4 Hammersmith; roadworks off-peak. SOUTH EAST A4 Reading restrictions and lane obsures between the Hogarth Roundabout and Burileid Road.
A329M Reading; one lane closed in both directions over the M4 at knotion 10 the M4 at junction 10.
A27 Brighton; overnight
work between the Hanglet
Junction and Ditching

Road Bridge, Diversions, M25 Junctions 25-26; work both ways with nerrow lanes and 50mph limit. M27 junctions 8-10; contration. M25 janctions 6-10; lan closures sothways: A3 Hogs Back (A31), works at the Stag Hill flyover.

 SOUTH WEST
 A390 Treliske Roundabout. contraflow. A29 Visicks Corner; roadworks. M5 junction 13; only one

lane open at the roundabout junction with the A419. M5 junction 17; roadworks for construction of a new road layout on the junction roundabout. Diversions, but Usually severe delays. M5 junctions 17-20; contrallow across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit. M4 junctions 17-16; contratiow and 50mph limit.

O NORTH M6 junctions 20-21a; down to three narrow lanes. M6 junctions 37-33; contratiow with two lanes in both directions and a 50 mph limit. A62 Chadderton; work on

Oldham Road at the junction with Hollinwood Ave.
A59 Much Hoole; work on Liverpool Road; major delays.
A19 Bentley work at the
Bentley Road flood arches.
A61 Stourton; lane restrictions on Waketie M1 junction 47; major rictions on Wakefield Road, roadworks, continue around the Leeds Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dewsbury

 MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA A6 Lockington; contrallow from just north of the M1 J24 to

temporary lights and single lane traffic over the Nottingham Road bridge.
Nottingham Road bridge.
Diversions via the B1174
and A607.
A464 Haughton; temporary
lights at Haughton
Crossroads, between Upton Magna and Asterley temporary lights in place. A500 Talke-Stoke on Trent; contrallow on the D-Road between Talka and Stoke on Trent as roadworks A14 Newmarket Bypass; works and contratiow.

A41 Welverhampton;
temporary traffic lights on
Bliston Road at the Canal
Bridge for strengthening works
between Eagle Street &
Chillington Street, Expect
peak-time delays. • WALES A482 Aberaeron, Upper Aberaeron Bridge on South Road closed for reconstruction work. Diversions via Pariting Road and the A487, where there are also temporary traffic lights. Road for major works; M4 junctions 23e-24; lane closures between the Magor and Newport junction as major widening work continues. Expect regular rush hour delays.

A4067 between Ynysforgan (M4 junction 45) and Landore; contrallow with a single lane for construction work. Roundabout. Expect lengthy delays, especially from the A4042 direction. ● SCOTLAND Longforgan; carriageway reduced to one lane in both

Sawley Island (B6540) with no right turn into Donnington A52 Near Grantham;

M48; junctions I-2, M48; junctions I-2, manageway reduced to one lane over the old Severn Bridge for roadworks. A470 north of Cein Coed; 40mph on A485 at Cein Coed with bemp lights on Aberdare Road. M4 junctions 23a-24; lane

lane for construction work. Expect delays. A472 Pontypool; contratiow between Pontymolie and the Heron

A90; contraflow from the Bridge of Mondynes to Fiddes. Carriageway reduced to one lane in both directions. A8 junction 2 Newbridge Spur (M9); major roadworks, with lane closures on the roundabout. A8 Princes Street, closed to vehicles Eastbound.
Diversions via South
Charlotte Street, Queen Si
and York Place. A90 between Swallow Roundabout and

directions. A898 Erskine Bridge nly open to car and light vehicle A76 Lochhill; temporary traffic lights in place.



VIII R

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Kevin East you borrow

en Tomlin back the ke Aston and p what he really war. Christmas: a Ferran Carrera? Nope. What gorgeous, long-snource Austin Healey 3000?

The choice was entry the investment bank belongs to an exclusi whose members hat than two dozen gloric at their disposal and thei at their disposal any til want to take them for They have everything E-type to a tiny 600 Abarth in bright ye staid but sure 1967 Plas Princess saloon wonderful open-toppe wonderful open-toppe Ford Thunderbird with front seat and rear fins They are cars even o motorists drool over be they can never own

IT RIDAY DECEMBER

EL GRIDLOCK GUIDE

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SPRESSIE FOR YOURSELF: MOTORING GIFT IDEAS

Wide outfit with matching accessories

From fake brakes to carbon cockpit covers, Xtreme has it all. Guy Walters ventures in to the Essex mecca of car spoilering

precisely, it had to be in Harlow. There could be no other town in no other county that could host a place such as Xireme. In a place where low profile tyres will raise your profile and where young men are judged by the width of their wheels, a shop specialising in state-of-the-art car accessories just had to open. The merchandise on offer in

Xtreme (slogan: "Why be anything, else?") is staggering, both in terms." of range and bizarreness. If you are worried that your calipers don't match your bodywork, then your can buy the matching paint for £18.80. You can also buy a gaiter for your gearstick that matches those newly-painted calipers. White speedometer dials can be bought. for around £40 to give your motor

that rally-car feel, essential for the rugged streets of Chelmsford. Then there are the Momo racing harness pads at £11.75 that will rein in the Damon Hill in you. But let's not forget that "carbon fibre" cockpit film at £19.97 per roll you can spread over your dashboard to give your XR2 that, er, carbon look, and the sheets of plastic starting at

'£14.10 per roll that can tint your windows so the world looks permanently twilit. (This is also useful for flightless vampires and ugly boyracers.) It is scarcely worth men-tioning the alloy wheels at £250 each, those important low-profile tubes of rubber, car alarms with voices - Take another step closer

vuces — Take anomer step closer and I'll go off — and sound-systems loud enough to open your boot and shake your fluffy dice (dice sadly not available).

Volkswagen Golfs are well catered for at Xireme, Your Mark II Golf can be fitted with a determine themet orall smaller for EXAS and a Hamei grill spoiler for £52.88 and a handy OMP strut brace to firm up your underneath for £52.23. What better Christmas presents could a car wish for? You could also buy it a Janspeed Large Bore (nodeed) ex-baust system for £206.80, which will add tons of volume if not horsepower, and a KAN Performance air filter for £28.70, which is presumably essential in most parts

Those who can't stretch to buying actual disc brakes could buy some Foliane: DTM drum-brake covers at £39.50 to give that "crossdrilled disc look". This is, of course, only

necessary if you've bought some alloy wheels, otherwise nobody will be able to admire them. And if your motor doesn't deserve a whole new exhaust system, then buy it a straight four-inch exhaust tail (with rolled lip, very important) for £22.91. At the very least it would make an ideal stocking filler.

In fact, it is nearly possible to make an entire car out of the accessories available. It would look fantastic and cost several thousand pounds, all it would lack is an engine and the occasional door but those are for squares. It's the

jewellery that counts, not the dress. Xtreme is the offspring of a union between Joe Mariorana and Keith Ripp. Martorana was the owner of the Mr Unique chain of fast-fit tyre and exhaust centres, and Ripp the owner of Ripspeed, a chain of car accessory shops. It was love at first sight and Xtreme is a hybrid of both their specialities. What makes Xtreme really special is that you can have your exciting new toys litted on-site. Thus, no having to drive away with your new 20-inch

alloys in the boot. Ripp sells the place well with his banter. "Look at this place, just look



Xtreme co-owner Keith Ripp, king of the bolt-on goodie: "All these things are essentially luxury items. None of them is essential."

at it," he says, "You know what it's got?" Um, what? It looks like a smart industrial estate. "Charisma. A lot of charisma." Is that it? We've also got a coffee bar. Joe is Italian, so we've got Lavazza coffee. The best. And these aluminium chairs are Italian too. The best." Xtreme even has a play area for children, and a clinical-looking garage with £30,000 scissor lifts — "the best". Even the mechanics

wear Formula One overalls - "it's

all about projecting the right image. It looks professional." The best, no doubt.

In the shop, which is a pleasant enough environment - the hybrid offspring of a night of passion between Top Man and Top Gear there is a huge bank of TV screens pumping out MTV. The music is Carnaby Street boutique loud and young men walk around wondering whether to buy the white dials or the caliper paint, or, what the hell, both. The car park can handle over 60 XR3s, and Ripp says that on weekends it resembles a get-together in which owners compare wheel

sizes and how loud it can get.
But Ripp is no fool. He and
Martorana have invested £500,000 in Xtreme, and judging by Essex's taste in automotive modification, they should get their money back quicker than a Cosworth. But it is not just les hommes d'Essex. In the open, people have come from as far as Bournemouth to make their cars lower, wider, and louder. "All these things are essentially luxury items," says Ripp, "None of them is essential." But boys love toys, and none more so than wide ones.

 Xtreme, Crown Gate, Velix Ave, Harlow, Essex. Telephone 01279 412603 for information and details of the shop's mail-

Fun car balls (no comment), £3; braces £40; silk tie £35; bow tie £20. At BMW dealers

Fancy festive car gear?

TEN DAYS to go and you haven't a clue what to buy your parmer, father, mother, brother, son, daughter or assorted acquatainces for Christmas. Before you tear Christmas cascelled, check out the stories at the top and half-dozen gift ideas. There might be something here to ease the burden, if not the wallet, and put a seasonal smile on a motorist's face.



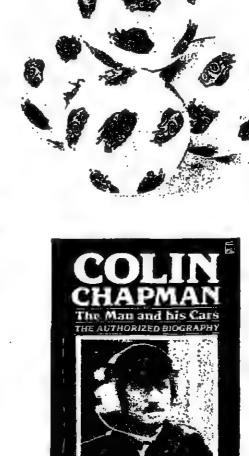
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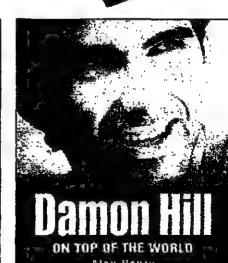


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How to get a classic for Christmas

Kevin Eason on the club that lets

you borrow rare and precious cars

en Tomlin handed back the keys of the
Aston and pondered
what he really wanted for
Christmas: a Ferrari? A 911

back the keys of the
prohibitive, the cost of runming one often enough to
reduce grown men to tears.

David Kavanagh found a Carrera? Nope. What about a way for drivers to do more gorgeous, long-snouted classic than dream. A London barris-Austin Healey 3000? ttr, he spent most of his early

Ford Thunderbird with bench Club; a unique scheme which want it.

ustin Healey 3000? ter, he spent most of his early
The choice was enviable for adult life looking at cars he

the investment banker. He wanted desperately to drive belongs to an exclusive club but could never afford. "I had than two dozen glorious cars umphs and Alfasuds," he says.

front seat and rear fins.

They are cars even ordinary huge range of exotic cars they want from the catalogue, motorists drool over but know without the commitment to turn up at the Kings Cross allows enthusiasts to drive a they can never own because buy. They pay a one-off joining garage in north London and



Plas Princess saloon to a David worked on the idea and against whichever car they wonderful open-topped 1955 came up with the Classic Car want for however long they

They samply book the car

Mondeo for something more exotic, for others — particular-ly people based in central London who do not drive during the week - it is a way to have an exotic car without

are track days, dub outings and a library of motoring books and videos. Or memblers can simply pay their money and make their choice of car, their only other commitment to put petrol in it.

members, including Ken Tomlin, who is typical of the type of people who relish the chance to spend a weekend with a car they might not be

sure they really want to buy. Ken says: "I had thought for a long time about buying a more than two speeding con-

classic car of some kind. I had my eye on a Ferrari but they can cost around £3,000 a year to run and insure and that is before anything mechanical goes wrong. I heard about the club and discovered it is not only a great way to check which sort of car I would want to own, but also a way to drive cars I would never have the

chance to otherwise." David adds: "People who own classics know that E1,500 can sometimes pay for just one service. The advantage of a club like this is that you are not stuck with a car you don't like. You just change it for something else next time when you fancy an outing."

Members choose for practicality as well as fun. The club's Porsche 928 and 1986 Jaguar XIS are favoured long-distance cruisers, for example, the 1953 C-type, a replica of the famous 1950s racing Jaguars, is chosen for a weekend when fantasy can become reality.

David spends weekends at auctions hunting out the next acquisition, trying to judge what kind of car will be most popular with club members, whose number is starting to grow to the extent that he is considering opening a second branch in the north of

England. However, members not only have to have the money but the right motoring stuff too: no drink-drive or reckless driving convictions allowed and no

Members are also expected to go through some mition before they are allowed out in cars— like the 140mph 1979 Renault Alpine A310 V6 or the hugely powerful 1975 Aston Martin V8 from 1975 which can some-

ays David, "It is not just a question of ordering the car, turning up and driving away. Some of these cars are difficult to handle so we want to be sure that before members go out, they are certain they know what they are doing."

How much driving a mem-ber gets depends on their choice and how they spend their annual 750 points. Softtops cost more points in summer, for instance, while some cars demand more points because they are more expensive: so, an Alfa Spider in summer demands 96 points,

an E-type in winter just 20. David says: "Members who use their points wisely should get about 50 days' use of the cars in a year."

Then members like Ken Tomlin can drive what they want, when they want - an idea that appeals. Ken says: "It is a very clever idea, and not just for enthusiasts - because of the wide range of cars. The only problem is deciding which car to have next."

The Classic Car Club, telephone 0171-713-7313.





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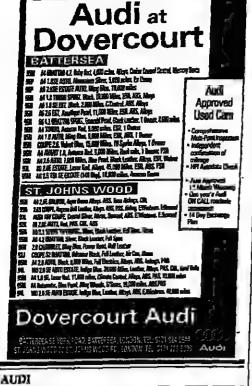
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presence in mance cars. First task ers will be recent incar AN DECEMBER

GRIDLOCK GUIDE

: 27

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It's the car that refuses to go away. Kevin Eason reports on how a South London firm is helping customers to buy again that paragon of plain old fashioned simplicity Beetle's comeback: via Mexico round the world and back to start on our roads. The Volkswagen Beetle is the car that refuses to go away. Carmakers can invent the latest whitzbang, aerodynamic new models with enough gadgets to stick on the dashboard of Concorde; best thousands of drivers just want the plain, old-fashioned simplicity of the pugfaced little car first seen before the Second World War. Now father and son team Ofly modern, compact Golf. But the and Shaun Hollamby are selling market for cheap, simple cars was growing fast in South America and Beetles again - and they are brand, spanking new. They come to Britain at a base the Beetle assembly lines were price of £7,495, cheaper than a moved to Mexico where they have Mini, and the Hollambys, who run thrived. That has kept the door open for Volkspares in Sydenham, London, believe they can sell at least 400 British buyers, who range from next year, such is the demand from enthusiasts to motorists who recognise the Beetle as the same safe, customers wanting a distinctive but reliable yet quirky transport it always was. They are potentially reliable car in a world of motoring lookalikes. fashionable again, with the Hollambys planning to import Shaun says: "We have sold War delayed production and, ironically, it was band of British officers different to anything else on the The car is a remarkable story of spares for many years and recently survival in a world of rapid change, fashion and fads. Ferdinand Porsche designed the Volks Wagen cabriolets as well as a new version been getting components direct from the factory in Mexico. People kept asking if we could get cars, so market, with their curious rearwho restarted the factory in 1945 as slung, aircooled engines and body with an electric rag-top. shape remniscent of a beetle shell They will never die in populari-Shaun Hollamby, left, of an idea to give work to Germans, (people's car) on the orders of Adolf Hitler, who wanted a car which battered by defeat and desperate - would become the best-sellers ty. They look distinctive and are Volkspares: "People kept asking

The vee-dub legend began when Dr Porsche designed and built a surprise present for his cherished son, reports Ian Morton

cute and practical." says Shaun.

The Beetle is unique and that is

why people love them."

ever. VW made more than 21

million in Europe before ending

production to make way for the

It started as a toy

for work and a return to normality.

Nobody then could have had the

remotest idea that the cars - quite

IT WAS THE Christmas present every boy dreams of: a Porsche. Except that this tiny Porsche was made by the great

would put Germany on his ambi-

tious and vast motorway network.

pioneer himself — for his son. It was 1920, and little Ferdinand Anton Ernst Porsche, Il-year-old son of automo-tive designer Dr Ferdinand Porsche, had been promised nothing more dashing than a goat-cart for Christmas. Secretly, however, his father had been building a boy-sized two-seater powered by a 3.5 horse power aircooled, two-cylinder fourstroke, rear engine, and when Christmas morning broke, there if was parked following day, the car was carried outside and the engine started. "Much to my father's astonishment I drove off immedlately in my new car - he certainly hadn't

reckoned on that." Ferry recalls in his autobiography: "My car was not registered and therefore had no number plate, but I drove it not only round the factory but also in Weiner-Neustadt. Policemen used to turn away whenever I went past." While Dad was indulging his 11 year-old son and heir, there was an important underlying



purpose to the exercise. Porsche's ambition was to design and build a small car accessible to a wide range of the population and he had already investigated which layout would work best, as monstrated by Ferry's little car. Austro-Daimler, Porsche's employer,



allowed the building of a small competi-tion car, the 1.5-litre Sascha of 1922, which came sixth in its class in the Targa Florio road race in Sicily, driven by Alfred Neubauer. But it was the mid-30s before Porsche's dream of a small car for the multitudes finally took the shape which Ferdinand Porsche junior with the Christmas present that started it

we know as the VW Beetle, destined to be the biggest-selling and longest-running model ever, and arguably the car of the century. It had an air-cooled engine driving the rear wheels - like little Ferry's original.

all, far left, and with the prototype

Neubauer claimed that the Sascha racer had been the forerunner of the Volkswagen. But Ferry Porsche - one of whose tasks at the founding of the original VW factory at Wolfsburg in 1938 was to drive Adolf Hitler to the station in a prototype open version of his father's small car - knew that the story had really started at Christmas in 1920.

AC turns on again

A C Cars, the British carmaker with the longest record of continuous production, was this week rescued from extinction. The company went into receivership earlier this year with debts of about El million. Now AC has been bought by the American-registered firm, Pride Automotive Group, best known here for its car leasing business. Alan Lubinsky, Pride president, says: "AC is

we decided to try it - and we have

some of the cars are getting on a bit now. This way, they can have their Beetle but get a reliable, modern

car which is simple but fun."

Although VW abandoned pro-

duction of the Beetle in Europe 17

years ago, the company still makes the ubiquous little car in Mexico. Not much has been changed, though the modern Beetle has posh

colour-keyed bumpers instead of

the original chrome fenders, a

proper dashboard, and even reclin-

ing seats.
The layout under the bonnet — or

boot, whichever way you look at it

- is much the same. Fuel injection

and some improvements make the air-cooled I.6 a little perkier, offer-

ing an extra ten horse power over

the old European power packs, but

the four-speed manual box is

familiar. Top speed with a level road and a fair wind is a cheerfully

optimistic 95mph.

Customers who wanted a Beetle have had to buy second-hand and

been surprised at the interest.

one of the best-known production of the Cobra Mark ship. Pride will relaunch the IV and will be growing the AC presence in the buoyant and

mance cars." First task for the new owners will be to revive the most tailoring. The two-seater, recent incarnation of the AC open-topped Cobra is a

One of our oldest

carmakers is

set to muscle back, Vaughan

Freeman says

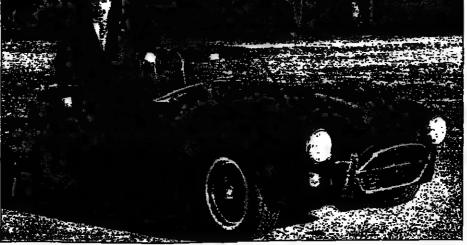
Ace, which was launched last

Ace next year. What makes AC cars special presence in the buoyant mar-ket for distinctive, high-perfor-is their phenomenal performance, matched to classic bespoke English automotive



New boss Alan Lubinsky with the famous Cobra, a big seller in America

145mph five-litre V8 capable of hitting 60mph in less than five seconds. The £73,000 handbuilt car uses a tubular steel "ladder" spaceframe construction, with aluminium body-work. Yet the hairy-chested



sportscar approach is paired

panels,

to such cossetting comforts as deep-pile wool carpeting, and the finest English leather for the seats, fascia and door

The more relaxed and less

brutal-looking Ace uses the are a motoring legend. The car evolved in the early 1960s same V8 but performance is tarned to a 0-60mph time of around six seconds.

AC builds around 70 Cobras of fitting Ford V8 engines into a year, most of which go The Pride group hopes to straight to America where they

when American racer Carroll

Shelby came up with the idea

build as many as 100 Cobras next year, ultimately raising production to between 200 and 300 cars a year, Martin Hayes, AC's spokesman, says: The first phase now will be an active search for distributors worldwide, particularly in the UK, Germany, the USA and

if we could get cars so we decided to

try it, and we have been surprised at the interest."

At least 400 cars are to be imported next year from Mexico.

Australia. "We believe that there is a buoyant market for sportscars generally, and particularly for a handbuilt British sportscar with a metal body that has a great and historic name. There is a worldwide following for the AC name, and we believe we have the right product, the

right price and the right quality.
"The Cobra is a blatant power machine, and that is the

image that it trades on. The Ace is very much a roadgoing machine that can be compared with the Mercedes-Benz SL in

terms of likely purchasers." AC started when John Weller, backed by wealthy trades-

man John Portwine, set up a small engineering workshop in South London in 1901. Two years later their two-cylinder 10hp and four-cylinder 20hp models were exhibited at the British Motor Show.

By 1904 the firm was known as Autocar & Accessories and its 5.6hp single-cylinder Autocarrier tricycle was the "in" goods vehicle for firms such as Maple & Co, Dickens & Jones, and the Goodyear Tyre Company.

In 1907 Autocar & Accessories used the AC abbreviation for the first time and the firm changed its name to Autocarriers Limited After the First World War, showrooms and offices were opened in London's Regent Street and racing driver S. F. Edge joined the Board of Directors. Weller and Portwine resigned, Edge became chairman and AC

Cars was formed.



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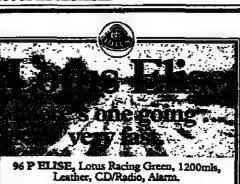
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Onlookers could only think that we had won the Lottery'

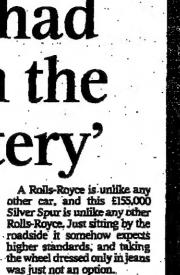
feeis like? Forget the roll-over, drive a Rolls-Royce for the EXCEDENT weekend and you too can experience the life-changing sensation of seeing your numbers come up.

Heads turned and jaws dropped at "our" Silver Spor. and you could read their thoughts etched across onlookers' foreheads. The family Freeman, sadly, do not look ike Rolls-Royce owners.

So for passers-by there could only be one explanation as we piled out. The Lottery must have waved its wand. And who were we to disabuse them? The feeling was

A Rolls-Royce does more than just turn heads. Like blue crystal pyramids, meditation to the or any other secret solution to orset universal problems, the Rolls-Royce Silver Spur improves

english our. It's true. For my first pelled to shave, polish my boots and put on a shirt and Mil for this car.



So, suitably dressed in best

flarmels, where to go? Living

in Brighton there was just one

choice, and we all piled in for the two-mile trip to afternoon tea at the Grand Hotel. As we

pulled up, a thoughtful door-man removed a Cavalier

parked outside and we slid

into the vacated place where

the Spur sat unmolested on

dress code, the Spur turned its

attention to my driving. The

Spur would transform even

the most road-raging driver

into Captain Courtesy, to the

point where Rolls-Royce could

Having done its best for my

double yellow lines.

Family treasures: Ben and Emily made full use of the video screens, headsets and fridge in the rear - but not the walnut cocktail cabinets

would have required an un-Spur like rush of blood.

Its huge dimensions, almost 18 feet long and nearly seven feet wide, plus the erratic heart rate whenever another vehicle approached the immaculate paintwork, means all turns, stops and starts are done in virtual slow motion. Suddenly I was driving as if half-way through my test, full of caution and courtesy.

do worse than inscribe a "Genteel Wait" mode on to its The car's wallowing road manners only help the Man-ners Maketh Motorist apcolumn-mounted automatic gearshift. For though the Spur will reach 140mph, our speed proach. At the wheel the feel is during a weekend trip to the Isle of Wight rarely climbed above 60mph. Even reaching the motorway speed limit rather like piloting a small bungalow. Over sleeping policemen the car's prow and rear dip and climb like a

frigate in a rough sea, Indeed, the feel of the Isle of Wight ferry was very like that of the Spur on the move.

Such considerations are not what the Spur is about though. Instead of making the Spur shorter and easier to park, the Rolls-Royce solution is much more fun. Sensors set into the rear bumper and linked to an array of red, green and yellow warning lights, tell the revers-ing driver how far he or she is from obstacles to the rear. As the car backs up, lights change from green through to red until a disco-dance of light with all three flashing merrily

is awesome. A simple "wow" from a young lad as we parked behind his father's Royer said it all. Inside it is more like a toy palace. Video screens fixed into the back of the front-seat headrests meant six-year old Ben and eight-year old Emily saw little of the motorway, but did see most of their favourite Hundred And One Dalmatians tape. The stereo system also allowed them to listen to

the front. A fridge tucked behind the rear-seat armrest kept the tell you it is time to stop.

From the outside, the Spur

Ribena at just the right temperature, and there are games

David Long on the victorious limousines that Lawrence of Arabia priced above rubies

their Just William cassettes

using headphones without

bothering the grown-ups in

too for the driver and frontsent passenger, including bottom warmers and the sort of carpets it's worth taking your socks off for. Three mobile phones should be enough for even the busiest on-the-move executive, and for the chauffeur-driven there are elegant

Nobody asks if a Rolls-Royce goes, whether it will last, or if it is prone to rust. Of course it goes, and if cared for will go on for ever, albeit in its own idiosyncratic drive-of-yesteryear manner. If you want to hustle and bustle through narrow country lanes, roar off from traffic lights and clip the apex of every corner, then this is not the car for you. If, on the other hand, you are happy to allow an extra half-hour for every journey

Spur must seem a propaganda

godsend. Times have changed

and want a car that you get out of only reluctantly, then the Spur could be the answer. high-gloss wooden cabinets to hold the cut-glass whisky de-canters and gobiets. There are other benefits too. Having been told there was no room at the inn, I returned to the car to continue searching for a hotel room only to be stopped by a member of the hotel staff, who, having seen the Spur, came out to say that they did have a room after all. For the anti-car lobby the

SILVER SPUR

Engine: 6.75-litre turbo V8 petrol driving rear wheels through four-speed electronically controlled automatic gearbox (maximum power not disclosed). 0-60mph, 7.9secs; top speed 1-40mph. Dimensions: length: 17ft Sin, width; 6ft 1lin, height; 4ft 10in. Economy: 11.3mpe urban, 16.2mpg overall. Equipment: Lashings of polished walnut, full hide buttoned upholstery and Wilton leep-pile carpet. Extras: mobile phones, twin video screens, bottle cooler, cocktail cabinet, remote cordless headphone Price: £135,242.50.

and even would-be Royce owners ask how many miles it does to the gallon. The answer is that fuel consumption is much improved, and is now a creditable 21.9mpg out of town, but that falls to 11.3mpg for urban

With extras, £154,291.50.

Such worries have done little to halt Rolls-Royce sales, which total 1,278 in the first nine months of this year, up 18 per cent, with sales in Britain particularly strong; ahead by 34 per cent. Key to the sales surge, says Rolls-Royce, is the continuing technical and design improvements in their cars, helped by analysis of feedback from customers.

The message coming from their cars are being used more often and are covering more miles, especially with businessmen and women who work in the back of their chauffeured car on the way to yet another meeting. In a car fitted with a fax machine as easily as mobile phones, such trips mean executives can contact their offices without the embarrassment of using

Is my snoring. spouse about to crash out?

Most people have a snooze after their Christmas turkey. Not my husband. He sleeps anywhere, any time and snores as loudly as a jet engine. What can I do to stop him, doctor?

A Something quickly. I know this dioagnosis will sound a little odd, but snorers have a tendency to crash their cars a lot. Snorers sleep badly and often suffer dire consequences as a result.

You mean my old man, who seldom ever seems fully awake, is in danger of nodding off at the wheel while he is driving along?

A Particularly that. But they are also dozier, with slower reaction times. The Respiratory Journal this week published a study of men with something called sleep apnoea; they stop breathing briefly and then start with a loud snort. It can happen a hundred times a night, depriving the sufferer of rest and turning them into zombies by day.

Sounds disgusting — a bit like my husband. Can anything help, short of a paper bag over his head?

Apparently, yes. He needs nasal Apparently, yes continuous positive airway pressure (NCPAP to we doctors). The treatment supplies a constant pressure of air through a nasal mask so that the snorer breathes regularly and doesn't miss out on sleep. Neither does anyone else accustomed to listening to them.

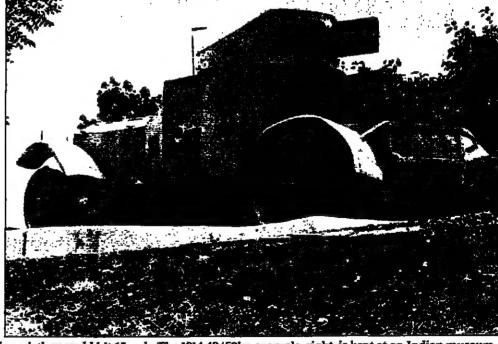
Thank goodness for that. He has been driving me mad. Does it mean that after treatment he will be Thank goodness for that. He has awake during the day as well?

Incredible but true. You will have Incredible but true. You will have his undivided, bright-eyed attention all day — if you can stand it. One other thing, he will be safer on the roads, too. The researchers discovered that the snorers who had a dose of NCPAP were five times safer on the road. The rehabilitated snorers stopped dropping off for a nap at the wheel and being so startled from their slumbers that they did all manner of daft things. So go seek out the treatment quickly and stop that man from snoring his life away.

Thar's OK for you to say. But That's OK for you to say. But nothing is going to happen until after the Christmas holidays now. What on earth can I do in the meantime?

A Hummum. Rule out the paper bag.
That could go horribly wrong — and you would lose out on the insurance money. The easiest solution is to invest in a decent pair of earplugs for night attire to shut out the racket — and a get sharp stick for daytime so you can dig him hard in the ribs every time his head drops. Sometimes you just have to cruel to be kind. And cruel can be so much fun especially at Christmas.





Western desert, 1915. On hard sand, they could hit 65mph. The 1914 40/50hp example, right, is kept at an Indian museum An armoured car, left, of the Duke of Westmir

Arabia, "A Rolls in the desert is above rubies." And as well he might after a desert campaign in which on one single, well-documented day, he and his men crossed a landscape strewn with rock and sand in three armour-plated Rolls-Royces and obliterated two enemy command posts, blew up a bridge, wiped out almost an entire cavalry regiment and destroyed many miles of railway line.

Throughout his famous campaign, Colonel T. E. Lawrence's driver was one S. C. Rolls. no relation to the marque's founder, and Lawrence later characterised their adventures together as fighting de luxe. When his victorious campaign across the Middle East was all over he wrote that "all the Turks in Arabia could not fight a single Rolls-Royce armoured car on open country. They were worth hundreds of men to us in these

deserts". In terrible conditions, his cars proved almost unbreakable. When the suspension on one of them finally did give way, Law-rence replaced it with three wooden slats cut to size by shots from his revolver, a saw being unavailable so far from home. Bound together with captured telegraph wire, this temporary leaf-spring lasted another three weeks, by which time Lawrence had reached Damascus in

But although he was one of their most ardent admirers, Lawrence was not the first to take "the Best Car in the World" to war. Indeed, the very day after hostilities started, Julian Orde, the

Fighting Rolls that made a first-class armoured car

secretary of the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall arranged for four Rolls-Royces and their drivers to carry the King's Messen-gers through France.

Before long, rich and titled owners were handing their cars over to the Government for official duties, among them Baron Rothschild who later proved Lawrence's claim that it was "almost impossible to break a Rolls-Royce" when he was forced to swing a sledgehammer at it in order to disable his car to prevent

it falling into enemy hands. But the most celebrated was Bendor, second Duke of Westminster, who formed up with a number of volunteers in the Royal Automobile Club Corps. They included James Radlev. who before the war had successfully rallied Rolls-Royces and, keen for adventure, Bendor's band of brothers soon became a familiar sight driving up and down the lines in their Rolls-Royces, taking pot-shots at the

Impressed by Bendor's example, Winston Churchill lent official support to these new armoured "land ships". With his considerable backing and the expertise of a leading ship designat the Admiralty, Captain Eustace Tennyson D'Encourt, growing numbers of Rolls-Royce



Sheikh, battle and Rolls: Lawrence of Arabia, right, in Damascus with war-worn limousine

40/50hp Silver Ghosts were kitted out for war.

The principal modifications included reinforced axles, more than three tons of armour plating three eighths of an inch thick, a crude but effective five-foot diameter steel cylinder for a turret and a devastating Vickers-Maxim

machine gun. The size and strength of the standard Silver Ghost, as well as its redoubtable performance and impressive reliability, made it ideal for war work. Despite the heavy armouring, speeds of up to 65mph were possible over hard sand making it a formidable fighting machine. Other Ghosts found their way into service as ambulances, where their excellent ride quality and quietness

were equally important. In addition, almost three-quar-

ters of all aeroplane engines used by the British armed forces from 1914-18 were Rolls-Royces. The most famous, the Eagle, was an adaptation of the Ghost's sevenlitre, six-cylinder engine. This became Henry Royce's chief contribution to victory although, no lover of aircraft since 1909 when his business partner died in a flying competition, he probably preferred the distinction his

Ghost achieved when serving on the ground.

Westminster certainly did, and captivated by the potential of the armoured Rolls-Royce, Bendor eventually provided twelve cars from his estates in London, France and at Eaton Hall in

Cheshire. These were converted at his own expense, and the Duke gave each of them a pugnacious name such as Bulldog, Biter, Blast or Bloodhound, before taking command of three armoured car Squadrons, the first Englishman

The Duke and his cars were eventually shipped south Armoured Car Brigade in the desert fight against the Senussi tribesmen. By then he had already demonstrated the capabilities of the new machines when one of them withstood more than an hour of concentrated gunfire before capturing the German stronghold of Roissel on the Western Front.

Preferring the nobility of horse riding, many traditional cavalry officers still did not welcome the arrival of what one described as "these noisy, smelly machines". But after the second Battle of Ypres, The Times reported that, assisting the 10th Hussars, the Duke's armoured cars "did excel-

lent work". He and others who used them for a combination of glamorous, daring and arduous assignments were quick to acknowledge the Rolls-Royce's status as the finest armoured car of the Great War, a reputation it retains nearly 80



CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, DIVINE FORE

Motoring's sensible pair of shoes

THE WIZENED finger of Old Father Time is obviously beckoning me into middle age. You see, I like a Toyota, writes

Kevin Eason. While I am aware that this is not the done thing. I can't help myself. I tossed and turned at night, talked it through with friends, even thought about counselling. But sometimes, you just have to own up to something like his: I like it. I don't know why. There isn't a good

Toyota loaned me their new Camry three-litre V6. and I wasn't enormously looking forward to it. When I saw its drab shape on the drive, I was even less enthusiastic.

But I had to drive it in the cause of professional courtesy. at I blipped the remote and jumped in to the leather driver's seat easily adjustable with electronic controls. Adjust the steering wheel, flip the key and off we went.

Not so quick, but smooth and quiet, even relaxing. The Camry cornered fine; no great shakes compared with a Mondeo 34v. but competent enough. A trip to Saleways, and the hoot was big enough

ROADTEST

I could see all around the

car, and on the motorway it

Then I had to return the

cruised along almost

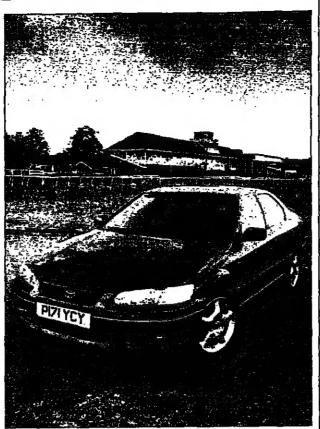
though I wasn't needed.

Camry to its rightful owners — and suddenly I realised I liked it. Usually there is enough time to build up either deep TOYOTA CAMRY antagonism or deep lust for a Engine: three-litre car. Not the Camry: it is a car 24-valve V6 through you can only just like, no more four-speed automatic intense emotion than that. The gearbox. Camry is, according to Performance: 0 to Toyota's press release, an "un-62mph in nine seconds, sung hero" in Britain; in the top speed 130mph.

USA, it is the nation's third average consumption If I were a company car buyer with £25,000 to blow, I 24.4mpg. Equipment air conditioning, leather would never even consider the upholstery, remote fuel filler cap and boot-Camry. But if the money was coming out of my account, it would be at the top of the list because the build quality is opener, electric windows and mirrors. Price: £24,609. astonishing and I would be stunned if anyone could prove

that the reliability was nothfor the mountain of groceries ing but exemplary. That price tag probably confines this car to the fiftywhich feeds my tribe of three teenagers for about two days. They weren't complaining eisomething buyer with a nest egg, who has ditched the kids and wants reliability first, ther for once with plenty of rear legroom. And the air conditioning was simple to consfort second and glamour a programme and completely

Which is what I find worrying, because here I was pining for those solid Japanese virtues. I'd better break out the Sanatogen and have a long think about this one.



Reliable, comfortable Carnry: a fifty-somethings' car

FORECOURT

■ ANOTHER Volkswagen the Corrado VR6, will join the ranks of classic VWs. according to the CAP Black Book The excellent 2.9-litre V6 engine is key to its success, writes Vaughan Freeman, giving storiking performance and making the Corrado a good second-hand buy. Best buy is an average mileage 1992 K-reg at around £12,500. Check insurance, and for problems such as damaged alloy wheels, noisy gearbox, missing roof aerial (they cost a fortune) and leaky shock absorbers. Avoid, too, the colour

■ FORD'S Maverick 4x4 is near identical to the Nissan Terrano because they are made on the same joint assembly lines on the Continent Used, the Maverick is sold through more dealers but the Terrano is usually cheaper. Best Maverick buy is the three-door, short-wheelbase turbo-diesel at around £10,000 for a 1993 K-reg. The three-door is considered better looking than the five. Beware unusually heavy or uneven tyre wear indicating wheel. steering or brake problems. Watch for strained gearboxes and worn interiors.

■ AUTOLOK 2000 is the first

steering lock to have twin approval from Sold Secure,

the police and Home Office

security initiative, and the

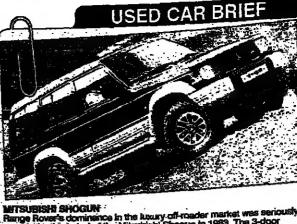
insurance industry's

Thatcham laboratory. Autolok.

slides over the wheel and is claimed to be drill hammer

and pick proof with an attack-resistant lock with 10 million

key combinations. Price £70.



Note: The Street of the Missibish Shogun in 1983. The 3-door tested with the arrival of the Missibish Shogun in 1983. The 3-door 26-fitte arrival joined a year later by the long wheelbase five door and a 2.3-fitte turbodiesal. Missibish has energetically upgaded body shapes and engines, which included the launch in 1989 of the lauded 3-litte V6. The Shogun and the Range Rover have seen more competition arrive in recent years but for most, the two still epitomise quality four-wheel drive motoring.

body panel damage, paint scratches, wheel damage and any underbody damage caused by over-enthusiastic off-reading.

pociessional mele or female, living in Whochester with full no claims bonus, £233 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year old me with a year's no claims, Bring in south London, pays £1,853, a significar female £7,199.

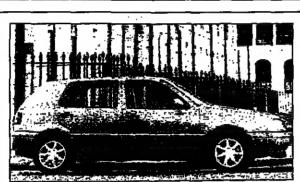
and £14,000 for a 1994 L-reg 3,5-litre V6 24-wave SE five door

bige), the Shogun has underlable presence on the road and sure-tooled ability of it. Even those who never use it off-road taxour the high driver's seeting position, excellent all-round vision for passengers and feeting of ability. Can be a handful in town though. Lacks Range Rover

SPARE PARTS

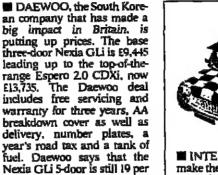
ON A RULL with a line of interesting new models, Volvo now inmiduces a new diesel ingine to its range. The 1.9itte turbo-diesel enters in the new \$40 and V40 models and should offer better refinement than previous Swedish oilburners. Diesels are key to Volvo's performance across Europe where the company has traditionally lagged behind competitors such as

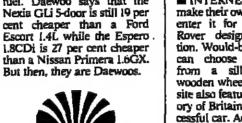
Peugeot and Mercedes. Top speed in the range for he four-cylinder, eight-valve augine is 112mph, and 0-22mph time is 12.6 seconds. Average fuel consumption is +4.8 miles to the gallon. The \$40TD enters at £15,870 while he V40TD estate version is



Better power and economy with a smaller engine

VOLKSWAGEN'S Golf has been given a smaller engine. but with more power. The German company this week announced it is replacing the 90 brake horse power Golf GL 1.8 with a new 1.6 power pack. Though smaller, the new engine delivers 100bhp, which increases the top speed from Illmph to 116mph and improves the 0 to 62mph acceleration time by almost a second. Fuel consumption also improves 15 per cent. Price around £14.000.







■ INTERNET users can make their own Mini and enter it for a monthly Rover design competi-tion. Would-be designers can choose everything from a silly roof to wooden wheels. The web site also features the history of Britain's most successful car. Access: http://www.mini.co.uk.



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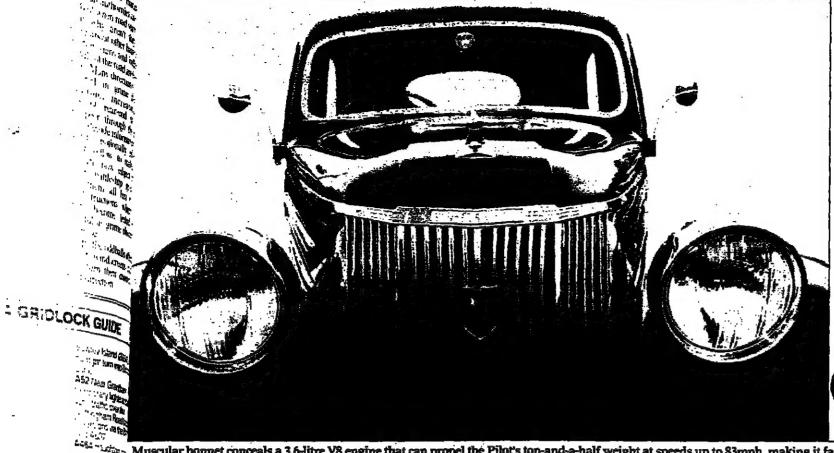
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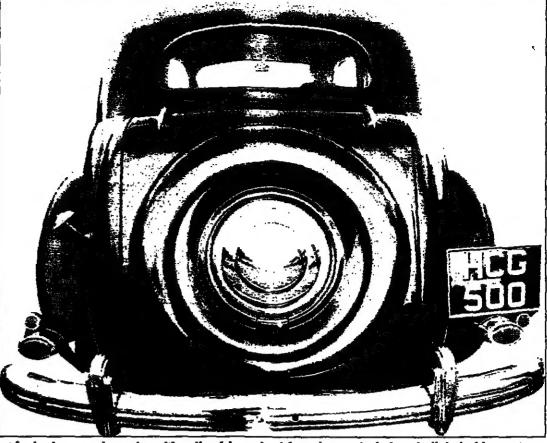
HIGHARD HOUSE, BITH BERT-PIR. THE FIRST JUNE (STATE OF BUTTON)

PERSON ALL SEED ON YOUR AND A STATE OF BUTTON OF BUTTON



Stuart Birch on the 50th birthday of the high-class handsome brute that was Ford's first new postwar car Flying Squad's favourite Pilot





Muscular bonnet conceals a 3.6-litre V8 engine that can propel the Pilot's ton-and-a-half weight at speeds up to 83mph, making it fast for its day — and popular with police drivers. Lavish equipment includes a built-in jacking system

pushing the starter button, listen-

ing for a moment to assess tickover

quality, before climbing from the

car via its running board to open

the bonnet by turning its aircraft

mascot. He places a 50p piece on

the inlet manifold. The coin doesn't

tremble — quite a feat as Ford's V8

engine was a real workhorse, used

to power wartime Bren gun carri-

he suspension of the Ford V8 Pilot includes "transverse semi-eliptic springs which, roughly translated, means:

Pearing over the bakelite dashboard, I approached the first bend with some trepidation, aiming carerolly, squeezing the accelerator pedal gently to keep the bluff, ton-and-a-half machine in order. But all was well, confidence grew, and I imagined what it must have been like to drive the Pilot (aptly named, for flying squad use) in beliclanging, tyre-squealing, body-rolling pursuit of spivs in Buicks loaded with black-market goods

along misty dockland streets. The V8 Pilot was Ford's first newly designed postwar car, and 1997 marks its 50th anniversary. It is a car which is remembered with fondness by all those who are of a

bers his first close encounter with a Ford V8 Pilot. But for him there was no fondness involved: "I was on the back of a speeding motorbike in the early 1950s when I heard a bell ringing and a big, black car roared past. A blind was lowered in the back window which had the words "Police Stop" on it. We stopped pretty smartly. It was my friend's bike. I was just a lad and looked on, but that car really made an impression on me. It was intimidat-

CAR ... TOONS

custodian of Ford's collection of historic vehicles at its Dagenham Heritage Centre, and his own car, big, black, brooding, is part of it, looming with muscly menace over more effete models with friendly names like Zephyr, Anglia, Consul

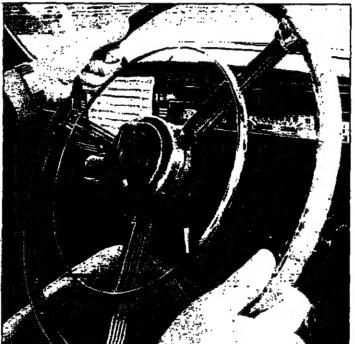
Cortina Capri.
The police liked the Pilot because it was powerful, with a big 3.6-litre engine and plenty of speed for its day - about 83mpb enough to catch the serious villains as well as people like us on our old

Like many large-engined cars, the Pilot went from its prestige position at the top of Ford's model range for four years to being a near-worthless used-car buy. But now its status is assured; two years ago. Ron paid almost £4,900 for his 1949 model.

Ford built more than 22,000 Pilots during its four-year production run. Most leaving the producin the Henry Ford tradition but a few other colours were available, including beige - but that was mainly for export to hot countries.

The 3.6-litre V8 engine which powered the Pilot first appeared in America in 1932. It was used in the Model 18F, which weighed only 23cwt and gave, in the parlance of the time, "terrific acceleration". In the dreary days of postwar Britain. Ford engineers did consider giving the Pilot a smaller 25-litre V8 ing. I can still see it."

In fact, Ron can see a Pilot every day because now he has one. He is and decided to do things properly.



Ron Staughton's 1949 model has its original dashboard and radio

Part of the reason was that the car's equipment level, including a built-in four-wheel hydraulic jacking system, added weight. Autocar the time said it was "quite lavishly equipped in the British quality tradition".

Ron's Pilot is almost original, although he has worked hard to ensure that it runs smoothly. He demonstrates how smoothly by

Engine: 3622cc V8, SSbhp. Three-speed gearbox. Rear-wheel drive. Performance: 0-60mph about 20 seconds: top speed 83mph, fuel consumption 18-22mpg. Equipment: Opening windscreen, self-cancelling trafficators, cigar lighter. clock, three ashtrays, parcel tray beneath "walnutfinished plastic instrument board", rear window blind, "car heating device". draughtless front window ventilation (they move backwards slightly before lowering), built-in hydraulic jacks, telescopic mast for nearside front wing to allow driver to gauge car width. upholstery) £746.22 inc purchase tax. Today, at least £5,000 for a good one.

V8 PILOT

Displayed on the Ford stand at this year's Birmingham Motor Show, Ron's car was a big attraction: "It was remarkable how many people stopped to admire it and how many remembered the Pilot." Although it was billed as a new design in 1947, its styling and technology were really prewar, the

new, three-box Ford shape was due to appear in the USA as the Fordor

and Tudor, but their modern unitary design, without the running boards and with their headlights blended into the front wings, would not arrive in Europe until the four-cylinder Consul and six-

cylinder Zephyr appeared in 1950. The Pilot looked tough and dependable, with American design overtones, it also had a clear identity. By 1949 the Ford name did not appear on the bodywork; it was known simply as the V8 Pilot, a daring piece of marketing for its

Ron holds the door open for me: Try it; you'll find it easy to drive but it rolls a bit. There's a threespeed column gearchange; put it into second once you're moving and into top by 15 mph. No need for many acurchanges after that."

So I settle on the brown leather bench seat grip the big steering wheel with its chrome horn-ring controlling mellifluous Windtone the Dagenham horizon. The power (30hp RAC rating,

85bhp) is impressive, the gearchange surprisingly precise, the worm-and-roller steering lowgeared and light, the brakes ... what brakes? It is push, push and push again to stop the Pilot's flight. And then there was the cornering to worry about, with that crude suspension trying to cope. The car certainly rolls but it hangs on reasonably well on dry surfaces (wet would be an interesting experi-

ence), the body flexing and rattling

a little over rough surfaces, a minor

problem dismissed with a joke: This is your Pilot squeaking.

I switch on the Ekco radio, built neatly into the dashboard, and wait for its valves to warm. Stations are marked London Home, Midland Home, Medium Wave Light. The radio needs a new valve but that, like other spares, is available. Ron gets most of his from Wally Wheatley, who runs Ford V8 specialist, Nordian Services: "He's on Matching Airfield out in rural Essex. The Yanks were there in the war: he uses their old Nissen huts." Even that is in keeping with the Pilot's late-1940s image.

s the sun drops behind the Dagenham skyline and rudimentary recirculatory heater is stirred into life, it is time to return to the Heritage Centre. The Pilot purrs to a half, back once more to few hundred yards from the production line where it was built almost half a century ago.

The Ford Heritage Centre can be viewed by special appointment or by visitors making arranged factory tours. Cars on show stretch from the Model T to the RS200 rally car and three-door Sierra Cosworth. Some are on loan from private individuals. The Centre has a wide variety of vehicles in store, including tractors. Ford is consider ing expansion of the Centre, with the possibility of open access for the general public.

From fail to pass by changing test centre





from hell, the one Bike test examiners seem wildly inconsistent, says Harry Stourton

it in the left hand

lane, or was it a right hand turn in

which case i

should approach it

the right hand

I went for the

left-hand lane -

my ultimate undo-

ing. I found myself

lane?

I wanted to ride a motorcyde but I knew that a new and substantially tougher -test arrives in January. Then iner, who was tailing me candidates will have to sit a two-stage practical and written exam, similar to the new car driving test.
The rule-tightening has also

led to the Driving Standards Agency writing to 283,000 motorcyclists owning ma-chines up to 125cc to warn that if they are riding on L-plates, they must complete the compulsory basic training test before January 1 just to take to the road, though moped riders with full car licences are

In an effort to sidestep the red tape, I decided to take my - but discovered an astonishing anomaly in the standards and attitudes towards testing which could be either personal or regional. I booked with a training company that boasted an 85

per cent pass rate. I was there on Monday morning for a week of tuition before a Friday test. After five days, I was feeling pretty confident - until met the examiner. I'd been told that the Driving Standard Agency's brief to examiners was to make the examinee feel his cold manner and his black figure out of wartime Berlin,

Throughout the 50-mmute test I obediently followed the days and £400 on a failure, orders coming in through my January I and the prospect of a

astride a huge and formidable-looking machine. All was going according to plan, but after 35 minutes I received the in Cheltenham. Before the test, I booked a order to take the second exit at the approaching roundabout. Was this a left-hand turn, in which case I should approach

> He tried to dart in and out of traffic to keep up with me

about unable to exit first time round with my examiner overtaking me. My expectation of success now severely depleted, we returned to the test centre. My fears were confirmed. I had failed. I later learnt that I was not

alone: seven out of eight of us on the course had failed, hardly the 85 per cent pass rate - nearer 8.5 per cent. The training company seemed surat ease, but the combination of prised, though they decided that this one examiner had leather attire, reminiscent of a always been a problem. He was seemingly more ruthless than the others.

ing. London's test centres were heavily booked, so I decided to try further afield for a date, which is how I came to end up

two-hour refresher course. My instructor reassured me that I had nothing to worry about, saying: "The examiners tend to be

more chilled out down here." From the examiner from hell to a nice man in pipe and slippers, or at least that was the as I headed westwards. Indeed, it was close to true: the man in black leather on bike the

size of the QEII was exchanged for a portly iovial fellow. In fact, forget the bike on my tail, he was going to follow me in an estate car. Only minutes after we set off, the bulky estate car soon was held up in traffic. Mindful

of the instruction: "Keep going straight unless told otherwise," I persevered: As a result, for a significant proportion of the test, I couldn't see if I was being followed as the examiner tried to dart in and out of traffic to keep up with the smoother progress of my motorcycle. After barely 25 minutes we were back at the

and my kindly instructor was pleased to inform me that I had passed.

Although delighted, I felt as if I had somehow cheated by passing at a test centre where standards appeared to be more lax. I telephoned the Driving Standards Agency to enquire whether such discrepancies were common. A spokesman for the DSA was surprised: "That sounds most strange. All tests should be at least 50 minutes," although he did concede that test centres were clearly taxed due to the

ment of Transport. John Bowis, the minister re-sponsible for driving tests, declined to comment, saying it was an "operational matter, not a ministerial matter", and referred me back to the DSA spokesman. Second time around the DSA informed me that there was, "nothing remarkable" about these disparities in time, that 25 minutes was the minimum legal requirement and if any-

thing 50 minutes was too long. Whatever, the length of the test, it was clear to me that where and when you take your test and who examines you are crucial factors. From the rigour of a test in central London to the relaxed attitudes of provincial Britain. There was no contest so far as I was concerned.

So if you really are worried about taking your motorcycle test, the message could be to head for Cheltenham . . . and a



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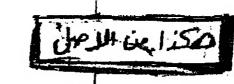
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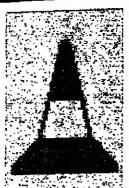
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